



NEW ZEALAND: KIM DOTCOM'S PARTY SHOULD WIN SEATS

Page 11



LATEST SHORTAGE FOR VENEZUELANAS: BREAST IMPLANTS

Page 12

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Tuesday, September 16, 2014



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, third from right, speaks with Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jose Garcia-Margallo y Marfil, center, as Russia's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, left, talks with Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby during the International Conference for Peace and Security in Iraq, in Paris, Sept. 15, 2014. President Fuad Masum of Iraq urged world powers Monday to take the fight against the Sunni militants who have occupied much of his country to neighboring Syria. (Brendan Smialowski/The New York Times)

Iraqi Leader Asks World Powers to Pursue IS

**MICHAEL R. GORDON
MAÏA de la BAUME
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PARIS - President Fuad Masum of Iraq urged world powers Monday to take the fight against the Sunni militants who have occupied much of his country to

neighboring Syria. "We must not allow them to have sanctuaries," Masum said at the opening of an international conference on helping Iraq respond to the threat posed by the Islamic State. "We must pursue them wherever they

are."b The more than two dozen nations that participated in the conference later issued a statement pledging their support for the new Iraqi government in its fight against the Islamic State, including military assistance.

But no fresh pledges of military aid were announced, and the statement did not commit any of the nations to take military action inside Syria. "They committed to supporting the new Iraqi Government in its fight against" the Islamic State,

including appropriate military assistance, the statement said. It added that the aid would be "in accordance with international law and without jeopardizing civilian security."

Continued on Page 3

In Iraq: Islamic State issues new curriculum

SINAN SALAHEDDIN
VIVIAN SALAMA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The extremist-held Iraqi city of Mosul is set to usher in a new school year. But unlike years past, there will be no art or music. Classes about history, literature and Christianity have been “permanently annulled.”

The Islamic State group has declared patriotic songs blasphemous and ordered that certain pictures be torn out of textbooks.

But instead of compliance, Iraq’s second largest city has — at least so

schooling, picking up the required readings at the local market.

The fall of Mosul on June 10 was a turning point in Iraq’s war against the jihadi group that calls itself the Islamic State. The U.S.-trained Iraqi military, harassed for months by small-scale attacks, buckled almost instantly when militants advanced on the city. Commanders disappeared. Pleas for more ammunition went unanswered. In some cases, soldiers stripped off their uniforms and ran.

The city would come to

ian stronghold, Raqqa, scrapping subjects such as philosophy and chemistry, and fine-tuning the sciences to fit with its ideology.

In Mosul, schools have been presented with a new set of rules, advertised in a two-page bulletin posted on mosques, in markets and on electricity poles. The statement, dated Sept. 5, cheered “good news of the establishment of the Islamic State Education Diwan by the caliph who seeks to eliminate ignorance, to spread religious sciences and to fight the decayed curriculum.”



A fighter from the militant group who refer to themselves as the Islamic State, distributes a copy of the Quran, Islam’s holy book, to a driver in Mosul, 225 miles (360 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq. The extremist-held Iraqi city of Mosul is set to usher in a new school year — one quite unlike years past. (AP Photo)

far — responded to the Sunni militants’ demands with silence. Although the extremists stipulated that the school year would begin Sept. 9, pupils have uniformly not shown up for class, according to residents who spoke anonymously because of safety concerns. They said families were keeping their children home out of mixed feelings of fear, resistance and uncertainty.

“What’s important to us now is that the children continue receiving knowledge correctly, even if they lose a whole academic year and an official certification,” a Mosul resident who identified himself as Abu Hassan told The Associated Press, giving only his nickname for fear of reprisals. He and his wife have opted for home

represent the expanding power and influence of the extremist group, which was born in Iraq but spread to Syria, where it grew exponentially in the chaos of the country’s civil war. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the group’s reclusive leader, made his first video appearance in Mosul in July to announce his vision for a self-styled caliphate — an Islamic state — of which he would be the caliph, or leader. Part of the Islamic State group’s core strategy is to establish administration over lands that it controls to project an image of itself as a ruler and not just a fighting force. In parts of Syria under its control, the group now administers courts, fixes roads and even polices traffic. It recently imposed a curriculum in schools in its Syr-

The new Mosul curriculum, allegedly issued by al-Baghdadi himself, stresses that any reference to the republics of Iraq or Syria must be replaced with “Islamic State.” Pictures that violate its ultra-conservative interpretation of Islam will be ripped out of books. Anthems and lyrics that encourage love of country are now viewed as a show of “polytheism and blasphemy,” and are strictly banned. The new curriculum even went so far as to explicitly ban Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution — although it was not previously taught in Iraqi schools. Abu Hassan and his fellow residents acknowledge the risks involved in keeping the children at home, but say that protecting their minds is equally important. □

700 feared dead in 2 migrant Mediterranean boat wrecks

JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — This year is on track to become the deadliest ever for migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea after two heavily loaded boats were wrecked in the past week, possibly killing 700 people fleeing Africa for Europe — the same number as died during all of last year.

That would raise the total number of migrants killed on the sea in 2014 to about 2,900, according to estimates from the International Organization for Migration and other officials.

More than 20,000 people have died in the past two decades trying to reach the Italian coast, including 2,300 in 2011 and around 700 in 2013. The migration organization says the steep death toll reflects turmoil in Libya, Syria, Iraq and across the Middle East and Africa. To escape those conflicts, many people are willing to board unsafe smugglers’ boats.

About 500 Syrians, Palestinians, Egyptians and Sudanese are feared dead after their boat was rammed and sunk off the Malta coast last week, the IOM, an inter-governmental organization with 156 member countries, said Monday. Another 200 are feared dead in the wreck of a second boat that was carrying at least 250 African migrants to Europe when it capsized off the Libyan coast.

The migrants apparently lost off Malta were undertaking a perilous journey from the Egyptian port of Damietta, seeking a better life in Europe, when their boat was overtaken by human traffickers equipped with two vessels on Wednesday, said organization spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume.

For years now, thousands of African, Asian or Middle Eastern migrants have attempted risky voyages, primarily from Libya, across the Mediterranean to get to Italy’s coastline and islands. Hundreds die en route. Unless they are eligible for asylum or have families or jobs in Europe, they risk expulsion by Italy.

This year, with the surge of conflicts, roughly as many arrived in the first few months of 2014 as in all of 2013. Many are Syrians, Palestinians, Eritreans, Sudanese or from other African countries.

Italy has repeatedly pleaded with its European partners for more help patrolling the waters. Previous deals between the Italian government and the regime of Moammar Gadhafi to thwart smuggling operations in exchange for Italian infrastructure projects yielded at best only modest results and fell apart when the regime was ousted.

According to IOM’s interviews with two of the survivors from the group that left Damietta, the traffickers rammed the boat carrying the migrants with one of their vessels. The two survivors, both Palestinians, said there had been a violent confrontation between the migrants and the traffickers when the traffickers tried to move the migrants onto a smaller boat.

Berthiaume told The Associated Press the traffickers “used one boat to knock the other” and that there were about nine known survivors in all.

The Palestinians were rescued by a Panamanian-flagged container ship. Both were taken to Sicily. The other seven survivors were picked up by other boats that brought them to Crete, Greece and Malta.

“We cannot say how many might be missing” because the Italian Coast Guard didn’t pick up those survivors who gave that account, said Lt. Alessandra Ventriglia. She said a search of the area, which lasted through Sunday, found no trace of the boat or the bodies.

Berthiaume said the other boat capsized Monday before leaving the coast near the Libyan capital. □

Iraqi leader asks world powers to pursue IS

Continued on Page 3

President François Hollande of France, who opened the session, said the Islamic State represented a global danger and urged the international community to help Iraq. "The Iraqis' fight against terrorists is also ours," Hollande said. "There is no time to lose."

Masum's appeal for broader military action against the Islamic State is not a new one for the Iraqi government, but it was significant that he made it in a gathering of 26 nations plus representatives of the United Nations, the European Union and the Arab League.

In recent weeks, the United States has focused its airstrikes inside Iraq: defending the northern city of Irbil, securing Mosul Dam and protecting Haditha Dam.

But Iraq's new prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, has asked the United States to take action on the Syrian side of the border to deprive the Islamic State of the havens it enjoys there. And Masoud Barzani, the president of the Kurdish autonomous region, also urged action in the Iraqi-Syria border area in a telephone call Saturday with Secretary of State John Kerry, State Department officials said.

"The Iraqis have asked for assistance in the border regions, and that's something we're looking at," a senior State Department official said Sunday.

The official asked not to be identified under the protocol for briefing reporters.

The Islamic State is in control of much of northern and western Iraq and has a sanctuary in Syria.

Western nations are concerned that more Europeans or Americans might join the group, become further radicalized and then return home to carry out terrorist attacks.

As the conference began, French officials confirmed that their planes, based in the United Arab Emirates, were carrying out reconnaissance flights over Iraq



Top international diplomats and politicians pose for a family photo at the international conference intended to come up with an international strategy against Islamic State extremists, in Paris, Monday, Sept. 15, 2014. As diplomats from around the world sought a global strategy to fight Islamic State extremists, Iran ruled out working with any international coalition, saying it had rejected American requests for cooperation against the militants.

(AP Photo/Brendan Smialowski)

to identify Islamic State targets. But France has stopped short of calling for military action against Islamic State camps and command centers in Syria or carrying out reconnaissance missions in Syrian airspace.

The Obama administration has authorized intelligence gathering over Syria and has said targets there are

not off-limits for eventual airstrikes.

But U.S. officials have indicated that the first phase of their plan is to carry out air attacks in Iraq while helping to train or equip Iraqi soldiers and Kurdish peshmerga fighters and to stand up new national guard units whose members would largely be from Sunni tribes.

Iran opposes the Islamic State but is not attending the conference here.

The French government had initially opened the door to a possible role by Iran, but U.S. officials were concerned that this might have precluded Saudi Arabia and some Sunni states from attending.

So Kerry opposed the idea, noting that Iran's paramili-

tary Quds force has been supporting President Bashar Assad of Syria.

"Under the circumstances, at this moment in time, it would not be right," Kerry said Friday during a visit to Ankara, Turkey, adding that he had not been consulted about the idea of including Iran. "Iran has been deeply involved with its forces on the ground in Syria." □

Hurricane Odile slams Mexico's Baja California

ALBA MORA ROCA

Associated Press

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico (AP) — Hurri-

cane Odile blazed a trail of destruction through Mexico's Baja California Peninsula on Monday that leveled everything from ramshackle homes to luxury hotels and big box stores, leaving entire neighborhoods as disaster zones.

About 30,000 tourists were being put up in temporary shelters in hotels and Los Cabos international airport remained closed. Emergency officials reported that 135 people were treated for minor injuries from flying glass or falling objects, but there were no serious injuries or deaths so far.

Odile, which made landfall



Mexican soldiers try to stop people from looting a convenience store destroyed by Hurricane Odile, in Los Cabos, Mexico, Monday, Sept. 15, 2014. The storm, which made landfall near Cabo San Lucas the previous night as a powerful Category 3 hurricane, toppled trees, power poles and road signs along the main highway, which at one point was swamped by rushing floodwaters.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

near Cabo San Lucas the previous night as a powerful Category 3 hurricane, toppled trees, power poles and road signs along the

main highway, which at one point was swamped by rushing floodwaters. Countless windows were blown out of rental

cars and high-end hotel rooms, and resort facades crumbled to the ground.

"From what we have seen around here, everything is pretty much destroyed," said Alejandro Tealdi, a 32-year-old resident of Cabo San Lucas.

His home was damaged and suffered some flooding, but nobody was hurt. "In the seven years I've been here, I've never seen anything hit like this."

Luis Felipe Puente, national coordinator for Civil Protection, said most of the area's power poles were blown over, leaving 239,000 people in the state of Baja California Sur without electricity.

Many were also without drinkable water. Ports were closed. □



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Cuomo, Christie discuss the region's terror threat

TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)— New York and New Jersey are facing a daunting domestic terror

threat fueled by mounting hostilities between the United States and Islamic State extremists, federal and state officials warned

Monday. Gov. Andrew Cuomo spoke to reporters following an hourlong meeting in midtown Manhattan with

Gov. Chris Christie, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio.

"We would be in a state of denial if we did not say with what's going on internationally that the risk of a threat to us has increased," Cuomo said.

Cuomo and Christie said they have directed their homeland security advisors and top police officials to review current security measures for the region and make recommendations for how best to respond to new threats. An initial review was expected to be completed in the next 10 days.

"We need to make sure we are ahead of the curve on this and not in a responsive mode," Christie said. "We need to be in a proactive mode to make sure everything is being done to protect the people of our region."

De Blasio pointed out that

New York and New Jersey security officials have experience working together from the massive and complex effort to secure last year's Super Bowl in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

"The security dynamics came off without a hitch," the mayor said. "That's what's possible here in this region." Authorities have long considered the region a prime terror target since the Sept. 11, 2001 attack. But they say the rise of the Islamic State group has broadened the risk.

"In 2001, it was core al-Qaida," Johnson said. "Today, the threat comes from a number of sources. The terrorist threat is more decentralized. In many ways, it is more complex. ... We need to keep our eyes on a range of threats."

The meeting came a week after President Barack Obama told the country he is authorizing stepped-up airstrikes in Iraq and Syria against Islamic State militants. Since the airstrikes began last month, the extremists have beheaded two American journalists held captive in Syria and posted videos of the killings.

Federal officials have been trying to identify citizens from the United States and Europe who have joined the fight on the side of the Islamic State, fearing the recruits could be used for attacks on Western targets. □



New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, left, talks with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in New York. Cuomo and Christie said they have directed their homeland security advisors and top police officials to review current security measures for the region and make recommendations for how best to respond to new threats.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, Pool)

House Republicans back Syrian rebel training

BRADLEY KLAPPER
DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. lawmakers raced Monday to authorize an expanded mission to arm and train moderate Syrian rebels before heading back to the campaign trail, with House Republicans preparing legislation backing a central plank of President Barack Obama's strategy against

the Islamic State group. The Obama administration says the training operation is needed to establish credible, local ground forces to accompany U.S. air strikes against the militants who have conquered large parts of Iraq and Syria, beheaded two American journalists and become a top U.S. terrorism threat in the region and beyond. The House and Senate are both

on a tight schedule, looking to wrap up work Friday before an almost two-month recess in preparation for November's elections. The authorization under consideration will likely be included as an amendment to a spending bill Congress must pass to keep the government open until mid-December. That would give lawmakers the opportunity to hold a separate

debate and vote on the matter — something members of both parties want. The measure doesn't authorize U.S. combat troops in Iraq or Syria or explicitly ban them, reflecting a congressional divide between hawks seeking tougher action than that proposed by Obama and lawmakers weary from more than a decade of U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. □

Lawyer: Mom in dead infants case in prison unit

BOB SALSBERG
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The Massachusetts woman arrested after the bodies of three infants were found in the squalid, vermin-infested home where she lives is now in a prison treatment unit for inmates who could pose a danger to themselves, her lawyer said Monday.

Erika Murray, 31, faces charges including fetal death concealment, witness intimidation and permitting substantial injury to a child. Not guilty pleas were entered for her on Friday.

Four other children, ages 13, 10, 3 and 6 months, were removed from the Blackstone home by the state's child welfare agency about two weeks before a police search revealed the remains of the infants, officials said.

Murray's court-appointed lawyer, Keith Halpern, said his client was placed in a treatment center at the

state prison for women in Framingham that provides additional protection for those who could pose a suicide risk. Halpern has

has not speculated on the nature of her condition. "It's kind of obvious that many things going on in her head were not real,"

testing of the infants' remains could conclusively determine whether the babies were stillborn or died after birth.

tial police visit to the home after a neighbor reported finding a baby covered in feces.

Guilfoil said Rivera was not home at the time and was not arrested. It wasn't immediately known if Rivera had an attorney.

Public records show the home was owned by Kristina Rivera, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, who is believed to be related to Ramon Rivera.

William Walsh, chairman of Blackstone's health board, said crews hoped to finish decontaminating the house by Tuesday and removing debris that, according to officials, included mounds of dirty diapers. The town already incurred cleanup costs of more than \$20,000, and the bill could reach \$30,000, Walsh said.

Kristina Rivera had been served notice that the home was condemned but had not yet contacted town officials, he said, adding that a tax lien could be placed on the property to help the town recover cleanup costs. □



Erika Murray is escorted into the courtroom by a court officer for her arraignment at Uxbridge District Court in Uxbridge, Mass. Murray has been placed in a prison treatment unit for inmates who could pose a danger to themselves, her lawyer said Monday

(AP Photo/Paul Kapteyn)

said repeatedly that he believes his client suffers from a mental illness, though he

he said. Expanding on comments made in an earlier Associated Press interview, Halpern said Monday he was skeptical whether forensic

Authorities have not commented on whether he was the father of any or all of the babies.

John Guilfoil, a spokesman for Blackstone police, said Monday that Rivera was charged with cultivating and possession of marijuana, stemming from an ini-

Hudson, Florida: Murder charges in 4 slayings

HUDSON, Florida (AP) — Authorities in central Florida on Monday charged a man with four counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of his ex-girlfriend, her parents and her new boyfriend.

The Pasco County Sheriff's Office charged 28-year-old Adam Matos late Monday afternoon. Detectives say the victims were killed around Aug. 28.

Officials went to the Hudson home Sept. 4 at the request of a concerned family member. Deputies found the four bodies piled atop each other in an open field about a mile from the home. The victims had apparently lain unseen for several days.

An arrest report says Matos took his 4-year-old son from the home after the killings. He and the unharmed boy were found at a Tampa hotel on Sept. 4 after a manhunt. Authorities charged Matos with an unrelated count of aggravated as-

sault stemming from an earlier incident with his girlfriend.

Matos, who has been in custody since Sept. 4, is being held without bail at the Pasco County Jail.

According to the arrest report, Pasco County deputies had gone to the waterfront home on Aug. 28, when Megan Brown — Matos' estranged girlfriend — called authorities because Matos allegedly held her at knifepoint. Officials said Matos fled the residence before detectives arrived. Officials discovered that Matos made more than 200 calls to Brown and her family in an eight-hour span on Aug. 28.

The victims were Brown, her parents, Margaret and Greg Brown, both 52; and another man, Nicholas Leonard, who was 37.

On Aug. 29, officials said Matos sold several items on Craigslist from the Browns' home, including the couple's two dogs. □

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US wealth gap putting squeeze on state revenue

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Income inequality is taking a toll on state governments. The widening gap between the wealthiest Americans and everyone else has been matched by a slow-down in state tax revenue, according to a report being released Monday by Standard & Poor's.

Even as income for the affluent has accelerated, it's barely kept pace with inflation for most other people. That trend can mean a double-whammy for states: The wealthy often manage to shield much of their income from taxes. And they tend to spend a lower percentage of it than others do, thereby limiting sales tax revenue. As the growth of tax revenue has slowed, states have faced tensions over whether to raise taxes or cut spending to balance their budgets as required by law.

"Rising income inequality is not just a social issue," said Gabriel Petek, the S&P credit analyst who wrote the report. "It presents a very significant set of challenges for the policymakers."

Stagnant pay for most people has compounded the pressure on states to preserve funding for education, highways and social programs such as Medicaid. Their investments in education and infrastructure have also fueled economic growth. Yet they're at risk without a strong flow of tax revenue.

The prospect of having to raise taxes to balance a state budget is a politically delicate one. The allure of

low taxes has been used by states to spur job creation, by attracting factories, businesses and corporate headquarters.

"If you've got political pressure to spend more money and pressure against raising taxes, then you're in a pickle," said David Brunori, a public policy professor at George Washington Uni-

one else has slowed the U.S. economy's recovery from the Great Recession. Because consumer spending fuels about 70 percent of the economy, weak pay growth typically slows economic growth.

Some states are scrambling for new revenue sources. Pennsylvania has raised fees for vanity li-

has thrived. Their incomes averaged \$1.26 million in 2012, up from \$466,302 in 1979, according to IRS data. The combination of an increasingly global economy, greater productivity from technology and outsize investment returns has shifted a rising share of money to the wealthy. Of all the dollars earned

as the economy has recovered and some states — California, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York, for example — have adopted higher top marginal income tax rates, according to S&P. In 2012, California voters backed a ballot measure to raise taxes.

That measure boosted California's sales tax to 7.5 percent for four years and income taxes rates to between 10.3 and 12.3 percent for seven years on income over \$250,000. Plus, there's an additional 1 percent tax on millionaires.

More than half the income tax the state collected in 2012 came from the top 1 percent, compared with 33 percent in 1993. And in 2013, state tax revenue in California surged 15.6 percent.

The debate about taxes and inequality has spilled into the race for governor, with the Democratic incumbent, Jerry Brown, saying a failure to broadly increase wages has stunted growth. "If the consumers are up to their eyeballs in debt, aren't making a decent salary, how the heck are they going to buy anything?" Brown told the California School Employees Association. "And if they don't buy anything, the economy doesn't go forward and doesn't work." Republican challenger Neal Kashkari, a former U.S. Treasury official and Goldman Sachs investment banker, has said that school reform is the ultimate key for closing the wealth gap.

"The root cause of income inequality is a failure of our education system," Kashkari said. □



This photo shows the South Dakota State Capitol in Pierre, S.D. South Dakota is among the top 10 states most dependent on sales tax as its main revenue source for state government, according to a Standard & Poor's study released Monday, Sept. 15, 2014. But unlike other states that are seeing a drop in such tax revenues, which S&P blames on a widening gap between the incomes of rich and poor, South Dakota's sales and use tax receipts have climbed over the past decade.

(AP Photo/Chet Brokaw)

versity."

Income inequality isn't the only factor slowing state tax revenue. Online retailers account for a rising chunk of consumer spending. Yet they often manage to avoid sales taxes. Consumers are spending more on untaxed services, too.

S&P's analysis builds on a previous report this year in which it said the widening gap between the wealthiest Americans and every-

one else has slowed the U.S. economy's recovery from the Great Recession. Because consumer spending fuels about 70 percent of the economy, weak pay growth typically slows economic growth.

Adjusted for inflation, government data show that median household income rose by a few thousand dollars since 1979 to \$51,017 in 2012 and remains below its level before the recession began in late 2007. By contrast, the top 1 percent

in 2012, more than 22 percent went to the top 1 percent. That share has more than doubled since 1979. Before income inequality began to rise consistently, state tax revenue grew an average of 9.97 percent a year from 1950 to 1979. That average steadily fell with each subsequent decade, dipping to 3.62 percent between 2000 and 2009.

State tax revenue growth has risen slightly since then

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US Financial Front:

American factory output drops 0.4 percent in August

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. manufacturing output declined in August for the first time in seven months, reflecting a sharp fall in production at auto plants that was due mainly to seasonal adjustment problems. Output at manufacturing plants fell 0.4 percent in August after a 0.7 percent rise in July, the Federal Reserve reported Monday.

Total industrial production was down 0.1 percent in August, also the first setback for the overall figure since January. Output was up in mining and utility production but these gains were not enough to offset the decline in manufacturing.

Output of motor vehicles and parts dropped 7.6 percent after a 9.3 percent increase in July. The reversal was not viewed as worrisome.

The July figure was boosted because many plants did not shut down as they normally do to retool for new models. That made August look weaker.

Economists had been looking for a weaker figure for factory output in August as auto activity returned to more normal levels. The fact that there were fewer plant shutdowns in July made output look stronger after the government adjusted the figure for normal seasonal variations. And that seasonal adjustment then made the August figures look weaker.

Outside of manufacturing, output at utilities rose 1 percent after a big 2.7 percent drop in July which reflected cooler-than-normal temperatures that month. Output in mining, a category that includes oil and gas production, rose 0.5 percent in August after a 0.3 percent drop in July.

Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said he was not overly concerned by the dip in industrial production because it reflected a temporary seasonal adjustment problem. He said gains in a number of industries outside of autos "underlines that industry remains healthy."

A broad increase in manufacturing this year has

pointed to stronger growth across the economy, suggesting that manufacturers expect business investment and consumer spending to improve in the coming months.

A separate report from the Institute for Supply Management showed that U.S. manufacturing rose on the ISM index to the highest level in more than three years. The ISM manufacturing gauge increased to 59, the highest point since March 2011. The index in July stood at 57.1. Any reading above 50 signals that manufacturing is growing.

Factories are benefiting from strong demand for aircraft, furniture and steel. The boost in manufacturing has helped to offset a

slowdown in home building, but U.S. manufacturers face challenges in some of their major export markets. The European economy is performing sluggishly while slower growth in China has weighed on business activity in that country.

The U.S. economy grew at a 4.2 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, a significant rebound from a 2.1 percent contraction in the first quarter that reflected in part a severe winter that disrupted a number of activities.

Economists expect that continued gains in employment will spur consumer spending and translate into annual growth of around 3 percent in the second half of this year. □

Speculation swirls over Fed, rate hike



Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen attends a Board of Governors meeting at the Federal Reserve in Washington. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — When the Federal Reserve issues a policy statement after it meets this week, the financial world will be on high alert for two words: "Considerable time." The presence or absence of that phrase will trigger a rush to assess the likely

timing of the Fed's first increase in interest rates since it cut them to record lows in 2008.

The Fed's recent statements have said it expects to keep its key short-term rate near zero for a "considerable time" after it stops buying Treasuries and mortgage bonds. Those bond purchases have been in-

tended to keep long-term rates down to support the economy.

But the purchases are set to end in November, so the Fed may soon see the need to use some phrasing other than "considerable time" to signify when it might start raising rates. It could sub out that phrase in this week's statement. Or it could wait until its next meeting in October.

Whatever the statement says when the Fed's two-day meeting ends Wednesday, Chair Janet Yellen will be pressed when she meets with reporters later to clarify the Fed's intentions.

Most economists think the Fed will raise rates starting around mid-2015. But as the U.S. economy has strengthened, speculation has intensified about whether it might do so sooner, perhaps by March.

Continued on Page 27



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Olive Garden defends breadstick policy

CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Olive Garden is defending its practice of giving customers as many breadsticks as they want, saying the policy conveys "Italian generosity." The remark is part of a response by the chain's parent company, Darden Restaurants Inc., to a nearly 300-page criticism released by hedge fund Starboard Value last week. Starboard took Olive Garden and its management to task for a litany of issues, including its liberal distribution of breadsticks, its failure to salt the water used to boil its pasta and even the length of the asparagus it serves.

Darden's 24-page response doesn't specifically address each of Starboard's criticisms, but states that the company is already implementing a variety of strategies to improve Olive Garden's performance. The company says it has introduced new menu items to underscore value, for instance, and is testing ordering technologies using table-top tablets. Starboard is lobbying to

gain control of Darden's board of directors at the company's annual meeting Oct. 10. Darden, which is based in Orlando, Florida, has struggled to boost sales at Olive Garden with the growing popularity



Patrons enter an Olive Garden Restaurant in Short Pump, Va. Olive Garden is hurting itself by piling on too many breadsticks, according to an investor that's disputing how the restaurant chain is run.

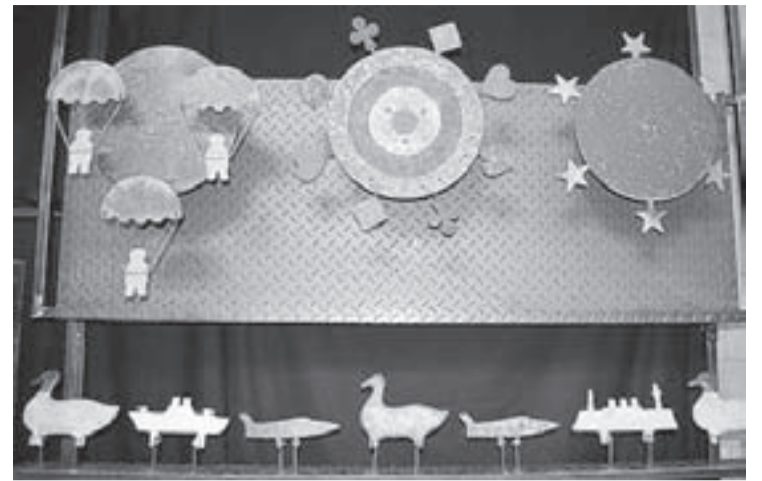
(AP Photo/Steve Helber)

of chains such as Chipotle, where people feel they can get food similar in quality to a sit-down restaurant for less money. Under pressure to boost results, Darden recently sold off Red Lobster, which was doing even worse than Olive Garden. But Starboard and

others took issue with the sale and wanted the company's breakup structured differently.

As for its breadsticks, Starboard said last week that Olive Garden was being wasteful because serv-

ers weren't sticking to the policy of providing one breadstick per customer, plus an extra for the table. The investor said servers lacked "training and discipline" and were bringing out too many breadsticks at a time, which also led to cold breadsticks. □



An amusement park shooting range built by William Mangels is shown in an exhibit of his creations at the Green-Wood Cemetery, where he is buried, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Mangels, who was passionate about amusement parks, built carousels, shooting ranges and other rides for Coney Island and other parks during the first quarter of the 20th century.

(AP Photo/Green-Wood Historic Fund, Art Presson)

Exhibition looks at genius behind carousel invention

ULA ILNYTZKY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A new exhibition is honoring a German immigrant who has given generations of Americans joy, thrills — and sometimes nausea. William Mangels was a mechanical and creative genius who enthralled the masses with his carousels, shooting ranges and rides like the Whip and Tickler during the early part of the 20th century. He's the subject of an exhibition at Brooklyn's historic Green-Wood Cemetery where he's buried — just miles from Coney Island where he lived and worked.

"William F. Mangels: Amusing the Masses on Coney Island and Beyond" runs through Oct. 26 at the cemetery's chapel. The show's quaint vintage artifacts and carousel music easily transport visitors to a bygone era when rides were simpler but no less thrilling.

From 1890 until his death in 1958, Mangels patented over 50 inventions, including the mechanism that's still used today to get carousel horses jumping up and down. He also wrote a book about the amusement park industry and founded the American Museum of Public Recreation near his W.F. Mangels Company.

Coney Island's historic B&B Carousell is still thrills visitors at the famous Brooklyn

amusement park today. "The Mangels factory made Coney Island the amusement center of the universe at the turn of the last century, attracting craftsman and artisans from all over the world," said Charles Denson, executive director of the Coney Island History Project. Some of his rides still operate at amusement parks across the country, like the B&B Carousell whose wooden horses were carved by Charles Carmel. It returned to Coney Island's boardwalk after a \$2 million restoration last year as part of the new Steeplechase Plaza and revitalization of the famous Brooklyn playground.

Other Mangels-built carousels are still in use in New York City's Fresh Meadows Park in Queens, Congress Park in upstate New York, and Portland, Oregon. Mangels came to the United States from Germany in 1883 when he was 16. He opened his factory seven years later because he believed "human beings have a natural craving for fun."

His first invention was the Razzle Dazzle, a large hand-powered swing. Other rides soon followed, including the Whip. The 3-seater cars operate on a turn-table platform that force the rider to one side as the car whips around the corner. □



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Kurdish fighters advance against IS jihadis in Syria

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Kurdish fighters captured more than a dozen villages from militants of the Islamic State group in heavy fighting across northeastern Syria, an activist group and a Kurdish official said Monday.

The fighting in the mainly-Kurdish Hassakeh province came as diplomats at a Paris conference tried to agree on a global strategy to fight the extremist group, which has captured large tracts of territory in Iraq and Syria.

Kurdish fighters have been repelling the advances of the Islamic State militants for more than a year in northern Syria. The battle-hardened Kurdish force, known by its acronym YPK, has been the most successful at fighting the Islamic State group, which has routed Iraqi and Syrian armed forces.

As Syria's fractured rebels have fought a two-front war against President Bashar Assad's forces and the Islamic State group, Kurdish forces seeking greater autonomy have defended their region against the extremist group, occasionally partnering with rebels to beat back the Islamic militants.

After ignoring the spread of the Islamic State, the Syrian military has recently gone on the offensive against the extremist group, which has seized at least three army bases and killed hundreds of soldiers.

YPK fighters have captured some 14 villages around the northeastern area of Tal Hamis since the latest round of fighting with the Islamic State group began Saturday, according to the Rami Abdurrahman of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Nawaf Khalil, a spokesman for Syria's powerful Kurdish Democratic Union Party, or PYD, whose members dominate the fighting group.

"We will fight them with all that we have," Khalil told The Associated Press by telephone. "Those (Islamic State) can only be deterred by force."

President Barack Obama announced last week that the United States will ramp up airstrikes and try to build an international coalition to degrade and eventually destroy the Islamic State group. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited several Arab states, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, in recent days in order to build a coalition aimed at beating back the extremist group.

Spokesman Khalil said the Kurdish fighters were "ready to join any political coalition to strike this terrorist group."

"We are fighting, on behalf of the world, the terrorism of Daesh," he said, using an Arabic name to refer to the group.

But the Kurdish fighting group is viewed with suspicion by the Western-backed Syrian National Coalition, which says the PYD is linked to Assad's government. Turkey is also wary of the group, which it believes is affiliated to the Kurdish PKK movement, which waged a long and bloody insurgency in Turkey's southeast.

In addition to losing the villages, the Islamic State group suffered another blow in the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, where the only bridge linking parts of the city held by militants with its suburbs was blown up. □

6 killed, 15 wounded in east Ukraine

LAURA MILLS
Associated Press
KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Shell-

ing killed six people and said Lysenko.

Chancellor Angela Merkel in a phone conversation on Monday both stressed the importance of observing



A pro-Russian gunman guards a damaged hospital in the village of Novosvitlivka, eastern Ukraine, Monday, Sept. 15, 2014. The village was severely damaged during fighting between government troops and the separatist rebels that eventually took control there in late August.
(AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

wounded 15 others in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk, the city council said Monday — the worst reported violence since a cease-fire between Russian-backed rebels and Ukrainian troops took effect on Sept. 5.

Fighting around the eastern city's government-held airport has left its northern neighborhoods in the cross-fire. Two northern neighborhoods were shelled heavily Sunday, leading to the casualties and damaging both homes and offices, the city council said.

Loud blasts could be heard from the direction of the airport all day Monday, and gunfire intermittently rang out downtown in the afternoon. The Ukrainian government blamed the militants for the civilian casualties.

"Neither today, nor yes-

terday, nor in the previous days did Ukrainian forces shell any residential areas," said Lysenko.

Both the rebel and government sides have said they are rearming in case the fighting starts anew.

Ukraine and the West have repeatedly contended that Russia is fueling the separatist uprising with manpower, weapons and expertise, something that Moscow denies.

In an interview Monday, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told The Associated Press that "around 1,000" Russian soldiers remain in Ukraine.

"While the Russians may have withdrawn some of their troops in Ukraine, there is a still Russian military presence within Ukraine," Rasmussen said in Brussels, adding that several thousand Russian soldiers were also along the border with Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin and German

the cease-fire, the Kremlin said in a statement. The Kremlin did not mention the frequent violations.

Merkel said she had told Putin that Russia must withdraw its troops from Ukraine for the peace plan to work. She said the complete withdrawal must accompany a securing of the Russian-Ukrainian border to prevent fighters and arms flowing to pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine. The cease-fire deal has brought some benefits. Another 73 Ukrainian soldiers were freed Sunday in exchange for 73 rebels, both sides reported Monday — the largest prisoner exchange so far. And in neighborhoods away from the Donetsk airport, many more people and cars were out in the streets than have been for weeks. □

Uganda holds 19 terror suspects, seizes explosives

RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Ugandan authorities are holding 19 suspects arrested over an apparent terror plot, officials said Monday as the security agencies continued an operation to dismantle what they said was an al-Shabab cell plotting attacks in this East African country.

The security agencies arrested up to 19 suspects and seized explosives as well as bomb-making materials in a raid Saturday on

a suspected terrorist cell in Uganda's capital, Kampala, said Polly Namaye, a spokeswoman for Ugandan police.

"We are calling upon owners of businesses, especially entertainment places, to intensify their security," Namaye said.

All the suspects are of Somali origin and Ugandan police and intelligence officials are interrogating the suspects, said Ugandan military spokesman Lt. Col. Paddy Ankunda.

The officials gave no more

details, saying the operation is ongoing and more suspects could be arrested. More than a dozen men were arrested at two locations deep inside a slum in Kampala, Abdullahi Hassan Roble, who heads an association of Somalis in Uganda, told The Associated Press Monday. Security officials on Saturday raided a hotel and a flat in the Kisenyi area, known for its large Somali population, in an operation that appeared to target Somalis who had recently moved

into the neighborhood, he said. "These were new people," he said of those who were arrested. "I never knew them." The U.S. Embassy in Uganda said Monday that a possible terrorist attack had been disrupted. On Saturday the embassy warned U.S. citizens to stay at home overnight because there was an operation to foil a terror plot. "We believe that the immediate threat of an al-Shabab attack has been effectively countered," said the embassy state-

ment Monday. "We remain vigilant to the possibility that some of the attack cell could still be at large." The embassy said it is no longer advising Americans in Uganda to stay at home but urged all to maintain "heightened security awareness."

Uganda, which has troops fighting al-Shabab in Somalia, has been on high alert amid concerns the al-Qaida-linked Islamic extremists are plotting an attack similar to the assault on a mall in Kenya a year ago. □

Mystery airstrikes target Libyan Islamist militias

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Unidentified warplanes conducted four airstrikes on Monday near the Libyan capital of Tripoli, leaving one dead and five wounded, a spokesman for Libya's Islamist-allied militias and a militia commander said.

A series of mysterious airstrikes, which U.S. officials have previously said were carried out by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, have reinforced the perception that Libya has become a proxy battleground for larger regional struggles -- with Turkey and Qatar backing the Islamist militias and Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE supporting their opponents. The specter of regional intervention has cast a pall over the increasingly fractured country, which was plunged into turmoil follow-



Vehicles with heavy artillery of the Tripoli joint security forces move closer to the parliament building after troops of Gen. Khalifa Hifter targeted Islamist lawmakers and officials at the parliament in Tripoli, Libya.

(AP Photo/Libyan national army)

ing the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi but gave rise to a patchwork of heavily armed and increasingly un-

ruly militias. Mohammed al-Gharyani, spokesman for the Libya Dawn alliance, said the airstrikes targeted Gharyan, 50 miles south of Tripoli. He

said militiamen told residents to leave targeted areas. A militia commander, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the strikes targeted Libya Dawn am-

munition warehouses and weapons depots, and were aimed at weakening its hold on the capital.

An umbrella group for the capital's Islamist militias called the Operation Room for Tripoli Revolutionaries said the raid was carried out by Emirati warplanes and described it as "a failure." Libya currently has two rival parliaments and governments. One is recently elected but based in Tobruk, where it moved after Islamist militias took control of both Tripoli and Libya's second-largest city, Benghazi. The previous Islamist-led parliament remains in Tripoli and is backed by the militias.

Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni on Sunday accused Qatar of interfering in Libya's affairs by sending shipments of weapons to Islamist-allied militias in Tripoli. □

Japan's whale hunt under scrutiny at IWC meeting

DARKO BANDIC

Associated Press

PORTOROZ, Slovenia (AP) — Japan's intention to resume whale hunts in the Antarctic — despite a ruling by the top U.N. court — topped the agenda as an international whaling conference opened Monday in Slovenia's Adriatic Sea resort of Portoroz.

Whaling for research purposes is exempt from the 1986 international ban on

commercial whaling and Japan says it will conduct additional hunts on that basis — which could lead to the killing of hundreds of more whales.

But in March, the International Court of Justice ruled that Japan's program wasn't scientific as it produced little actual research and said Japan failed to explain why it needed to kill so many whales.

Approval from the Inter-

national Whaling Commission's scientific committee isn't mandatory, but any attempt by Japan to resume whaling in the Antarctic after a one-year pause would likely face intense scrutiny.

The nearly 90 IWC-country members are equally divided into pro-whaling and anti-whaling camps, with Australia leading the opposition to what they say is the killing for commercial

purposes — meat and oil production.

Japan is expected to outline a new plan that will pledge a reduced number and types of whales it intends to hunt.

"The content of our new research program will not be so different from our past research activities, which were highly regarded by scientists," said Hideki Moronuki, a spokesman for the Japanese delegation. "The

main purpose was always to achieve sustainable use of whale resources."

New Zealand plans a draft resolution at the four-day conference that will uphold the U.N. court's ruling and help ensure that no "illegal permits for scientific whaling" will be issued. The International Fund for Animal Welfare has urged anti-whaling countries to support the New Zealand resolution. □

Generation Gap: Younger Scots favor independence

PAUL KELBIE
Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Across Scotland, dinner table talk is getting heated as families argue over how to vote in Scotland's independence referendum. A generation gap has opened up, with younger voters more inclined to back independence and their elders tending to say they want to remain in the United Kingdom.

Support for the status quo is strongest among the over-60s, who worry about the consequences that breaking free would have on pensions, health care and savings; the pro-independence movement is largely being driven by under-40s. Neck-and-neck in the polls, the rival campaigns have called on core supporters to make a last ditch attempt to swing the vote by making the debate a family affair.

The young have been urged to visit parents and grandparents to explain why they should support separation.

The No camp has launched a counteroffensive by asking seniors to win young hearts and minds with their wisdom.

"I was so proud of my grandpa when he told me he was voting Yes that I burst into tears," said 23-year-old Miriam Brett, a campaigner for Generation Yes. "A Yes vote means so much to my generation. We want to let all our grandparents know that their future is secure in our hands, and with a Yes we can build a better future for ourselves and for our children."

Some polls suggest the No camp is trailing in every age group except the over-60s.

Opinion surveys indicate more than 63 percent of that age group is expected to vote in favor of the union. As older people are more likely to be on the electoral roll, there has been a huge drive to get younger people engaged in the Yes campaign.

Interest in the referendum is sky high. A total of 4,285,323 people, or 97 percent of the voting-age population, have registered to vote in the referendum. That's an increase of 300,000 compared to registration figures in 2012.

The turnout for Thursday's ballot could exceed 85 percent, compared to the just over 50 percent who voted in the last Scottish Parliament elections in 2011, and the 63.8 percent who turned out for the 2010 British parliamentary election.

Many people in the rest of Britain have recently awakened to the possibility that Scotland might leave. Thousands of Union Jack-waving demonstrators gathered in London's Trafalgar Square on Monday in a last-minute show of affection for England's northern neighbor.

Musician Bob Geldof and comedian Eddie Izzard were among speakers at a rally that organizer Dan Snow said was designed to show "that England cares."

Among the electorate deciding Scotland's fate are 124,000 16- and 17-year-olds who will be voting for the first time. Many of these new voters are expected to support independence. But conventional wisdom holds that older voters are more likely to actually cast their ballots, a factor that could help the anti-independence "Better Together" campaign.

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond, who leads the pro-independence forces, described the Generation Yes campaign as "inspired" and said young voters now have a great excuse to pop around their grandparents' house for a traditional Sunday lunch. □

New Zealand: Kim Dotcom's party poised to win seats

NICK PERRY
Associated Press
WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — At a recent political rally in Wellington, indicted Internet entrepreneur Kim Dotcom jokingly asked members of New Zealand's spy agency to raise their

Dotcom may fall short of one of his main goals: getting center-right Prime Minister John Key voted out of office.

Polls indicate that Key remains popular and is likely to win a third three-year term, though that would

land's Town Hall and was joined by American journalist Glenn Greenwald, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and former National Security Agency systems analyst turned leaker Edward Snowden. Assange, in London, and Snowden,



Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, top left, appears via video link from London as international human rights lawyer Laila Harre, bottom left, Robert Amsterdam, second left, journalist and author Glenn Greenwald, second right and projected top right, and Kim Dotcom, right, attend a political forum at a town hall in Auckland, New Zealand Monday, Sept. 15, 2014.

(AP Photo/Brett Phibbs)

hands. "Please don't worry," he said, to rising laughter and applause. "Even though we are going to shut you down, we will find you guys new jobs."

Dotcom has been drawing large, enthusiastic crowds on the campaign trail, even as he fights extradition attempts by the U.S. on racketeering charges over his now-shuttered file-sharing site Megaupload. He can't run for office because he's not a New Zealand citizen, but he has poured more than 3 million New Zealand dollars (\$2.44 million) into a small party that is on target to win two or three of the 120 seats in Parliament when the nation goes to the polls Saturday.

The Internet Mana party is attracting younger voters by promising to deliver free higher education, cut the price of Internet access, fight mass surveillance, decriminalize marijuana and protect native dolphins. But

be in jeopardy if opposition parties such as Dotcom's gain more than half the parliamentary seats and form a coalition.

Megaupload was a popular file-hosting site before the federal government shut it down in 2012. Dotcom, who spent a month in jail in New Zealand before being released on bail, has since created another service called Mega.

U.S. prosecutors accuse Dotcom, 40, of facilitating the widespread piracy of songs and movies. Dotcom, who was born Kim Schmitz in Germany, argues that he can't be held responsible for those who chose to use his site to illegally download material.

On Monday, five days before the election, Dotcom promised a theatrical finale: an expose on New Zealand's spying activities, the truthfulness of Key, and "the sordid workings of Hollywood." He booked Auck-

in Russia, appeared via video link.

But while Dotcom said he would produce proof that Key had misled the public about his case, he did not mention anything about that at the event.

Key has said Dotcom's political aspirations are a cynical attempt to thwart the justice system and avoid extradition. A political appointee, the justice minister, is required to give final approval to any extradition proceeding.

Dotcom says he has not become politically active for his own sake, but in response to the New Zealanders who have supported him since his dramatic 2012 arrest, in which dozens of armed officers stormed his mansion.

"Since I'm here anyway, and I can't go anywhere," he said at the Wellington rally last month, "I might as well use this for something to give back." □



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Venezuela's newest shortage: breast implants

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's chronic shortages have begun to encroach on a cultural cornerstone: the boob job. Beauty-obsessed Venezuelans face a scarcity of brand-name breast implants, and women are so desperate that they and their doctors are turning to devices that are the wrong size or made in China, with less rigorous quality standards. Venezuelans once had easy access to implants approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. But doctors say they are now all-but impossible to find because restrictive currency controls have deprived local businesses of

the cash to import foreign goods. It may not be the gravest shortfall facing the socialist South American country, but surgeons say the issue cuts to the psyche of the image-conscious Venezuelan woman. "The women are complaining," said Ramon Zapata, president of the Society of Plastic Surgeons. "Venezuelan women are very concerned with their self-esteem." Venezuela is thought to have one of the world's highest plastic surgery rates, and the breast implant is the seminal procedure. Doctors performed 85,000 implants here last year, according to the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. Only the U.S., Brazil, Mexico and

Germany — all with significantly larger populations — saw more procedures. There are no official statistics on how many Venezuelans are walking around with enhanced busts. But a stroll down any Caracas street reveals that the augmentations are at least

pouch of saline solution no longer on sale here. Slobodianik used to perform several breast implants each week, but now performs closer to two a month. He says women call his office every day asking if he the implant size they're looking for. When they

veloping their personalities, using a Twitter hashtag that riffs on the Colombian tele-novela "Sin Tetas, No Hay Paraiso" ("Without Boobs, There's No Paradise"). In the absence of U.S. brands, plastic surgery has become an area dominated by Venezuela's chief trading partner, China, whose goods are often given priority for import over those from other countries. They're also a lot cheaper. While a pair of implants approved by European regulators can cost as much as \$600 — about the same as the annual minimum wage here — the Chinese equivalent goes for a third of that. Some Venezuelan doctors refuse to use the Chinese devices, which are not subjected to random government inspections or clinical studies.



Breast implant patients sit in a waiting room at the metropolitan outpatient surgery center in Caracas, Venezuela. Doctors say restrictive currency controls that deprive local businesses of the cash to import foreign goods have caused implants approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to disappear. Beauty-obsessed Venezuelans face a scarcity of brand-name breast implants, and women are so desperate that they and their doctors are turning to devices that are the wrong size or made in China, with less rigorous quality standards.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

more conspicuous here than in other surgery-loving places. Even the mannequins look they've gone under the knife. Until recently, women could enter raffles for implants held by pharmacies, workplaces and even politicians on the campaign trail. During this spring's anti-government street demonstrations, the occasional sign protesting the rising price of breast implants mixed in with posters railing against food shortages and currency devaluation. "It's a culture of 'I want to be more beautiful than you.' That's why even people who live in the slums get implants," surgeon Daniel Slobodianik said, fiddling with an FDA-approved

can't find it, they choose a second-best option, almost always a size up. No one is giving the frustrated women much sympathy, especially not the government. The consumerism of plastic surgery has always jibed awkwardly with the rhetoric of socialist revolution. The late President Hugo Chavez called the country's plastic surgery fixation "monstrous," and railed against the practice of giving implants to girls on their 15th birthdays. On social media, some Venezuelans take a judgmental tone, saying the panic over implants shows the real shortage here is values. Others joke that the scarcity will force Venezuelan women to start de-

"I'm not saying they're not safe, but I've removed more than a few ruptured Chinese implants. I just don't feel comfortable with them," Slobodianik said. April Lee, an analyst at the Massachusetts-based health care research company Decision Resources Group, said the medical community frowns on the use of non-FDA-approved implants. Unable to find the devices in doctors' offices, some women are turning to the Venezuelan equivalent of the bartering website Craigslist, where sellers post pictures of black market implants of unknown origin sitting in sealed packages on kitchen tables, complete with stories of spouses who changed their minds and reassurances that the pouches remain sterile. It's not just women looking for a more attention-getting silhouette who are struggling; some patients are in urgent medi-



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Mrs. Maria Geerman-Esguerra - Human Resources Director, Mr. Gerrit Griffith - General Manager Phoenix and Mr. Patrick Franssen - Managing Director for Divi Village and Divi Golf also thanked their staff for their hard work during the whole year and congratulated them on their well-deserved Housekeeping Week. During the entire week they will have different activities organized especially for them and they will also have a Fun Palm Island afternoon during this week. Our employees are all hard workers and we hope that they enjoy their well-deserved Housekeeping Week filled with different fun Activities! □



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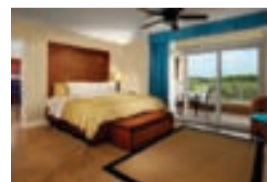
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-Aruba's premier adults-only resort provides personal convenience with Tablet Check-in system.

EAGLE BEACH - Guests of Aruba's Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts begin their tranquil experience as soon as they step foot onto the property with the resort's Advance Check-in option. Each guest will be greeted curbside by their personal concierge, who will whisk them away to their room while finalizing the check-in process with the resort's new personalized Tablet Check-in system. The new Tablet-Check-in system eliminates the wait at front desk and the need to fill out forms, allowing guests to get to the beach quicker. The personal concierge and the tablet give guests an opportunity to ask questions and make special requests not only during check-in, but throughout their stay.

Before traveling to Aruba, guests can log in at their leisure and fill out all of the detailed information typically required upon arrival, saving precious time that can be used for relaxing on beautiful Eagle Beach. As part of their ongoing commitment to offering the most carefree vacation possible, Bucuti is continuously thinking of innovative ways to enhance the guest experience. No more hassles, just relaxing.

The advantages of using the Advance Check-in option are as follows:

- Ability to make special requests ahead of time;
- Immediate greeting by a personal concierge;
- Faster arrival at room;

- Use of a VIP digital tablet for personalized check-in and resort briefing;
- Champagne toast upon arrival to set the tone for the remainder of your vacation;
- Opportunity to finalize any check-in information or ask questions about the resort or island while being personally escorted to your room.



This added value comes in conjunction with the "no surprise fees" approach, with all taxes and fees and a number of additional "frills" included in the room rate: a full American breakfast buffet daily; local calls; Wi-Fi throughout the entire property; air dehumidifier and air purifier; cell phone chargers; microwave and refrigerator; and complimentary use of an iPad (with Skype installed) in the privacy of each guestroom.

About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts:

Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts is Aruba's premier boutique resort for couples. The award winning, owner managed resort caters to adults only and has earned a number of awards and honors. The resort was named one of the top 25 hotels in the Caribbean and one of the most romantic hotels in the Caribbean by Trip Advisor, in addition to appearing on Condé Nast Traveler's prestigious Gold List, recognizing the world's best places to stay.

Located on the white-powder sands of Eagle Beach, designated as one of the "Dream Beaches of the World," Bucuti offers 104 guestrooms, suites and penthouse suites; a freshwater infinity pool; a Day Spa, among other amenities. Bucuti is also recognized as a Five Star Diamond Resort by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences.

The resort, which is certified Green Globe 21, ISO 14001 and ISO 9001, is a leader in sustainable tourism throughout the world and has been recognized by notable organizations for its environmentally responsible hotel operations, also earning the Green Globe High Achievement Award. Bucuti supports the local community on the island in many ways, including monthly beach clean-ups, the Turtugaruba sea turtle protection group and Donkey Sanctuary Aruba. The resort is also TAG Approved as a gay friendly hotel. For more information, visit www.bucuti.com, become a fan on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @Bucuti. □

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Three Couples Visit Tango Argentine Grill Restaurant

PALM BEACH - Three great couples were spotted at Tango Argentine Grill in the Arawak Garden: the Lee's were there for the second time as they came by to visit their favorite waiter Juan, while the Dileberto's came for the first time. The couples have been friends for a long time; they got to know each other in Rochester, NY. So what did they order?

They ordered the mix grill with filet mignon, lobster, chorizo and chicken and they were overjoyed, when the wines they ordered enhanced and enriched their choice. The Rioja and Malbec were masterful and delightful. At Tango they hope that the Lee's and Dileberto's will be back soon: they were great and enthusiastic guests. □





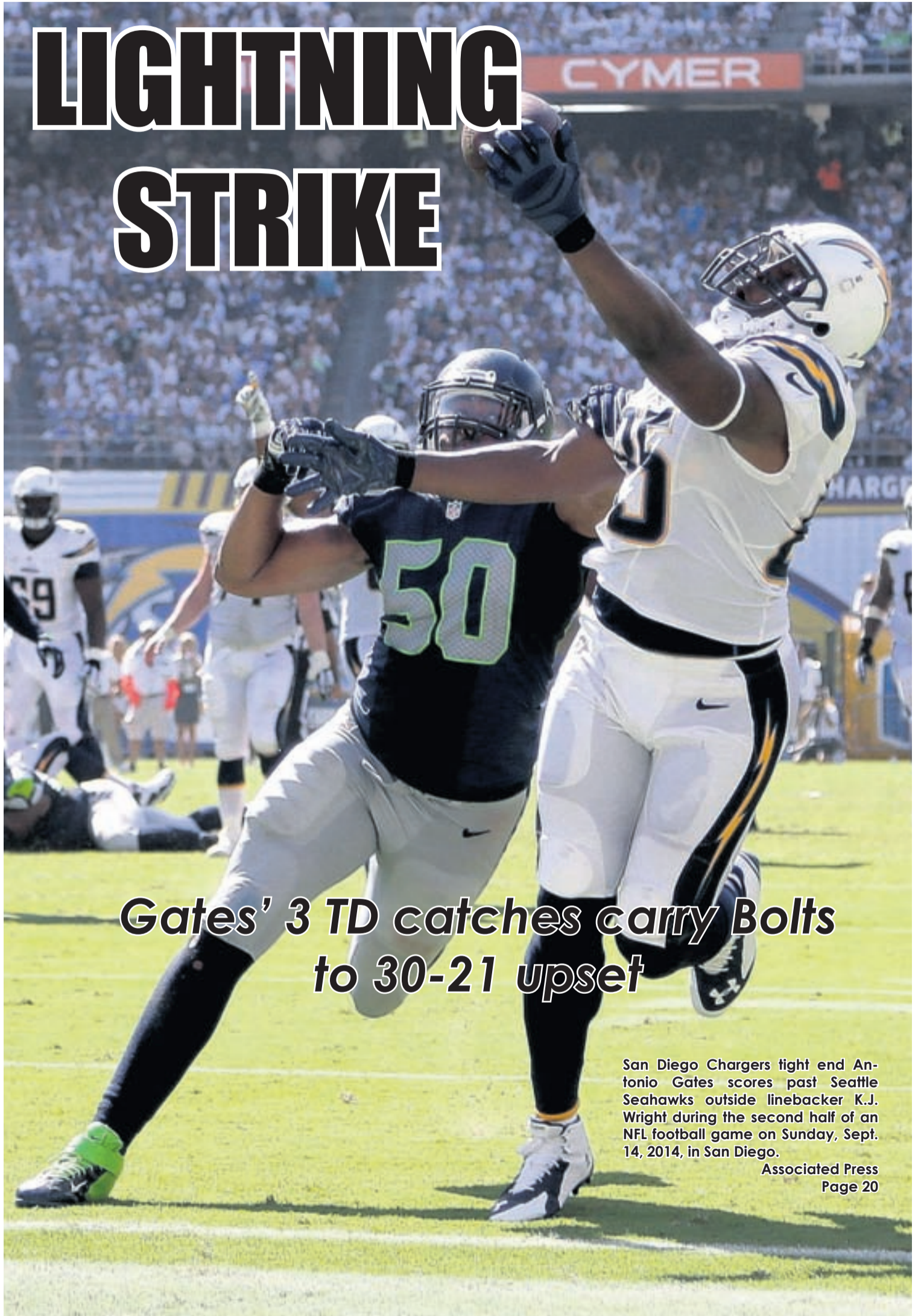
In this May 7, 2013, file photo, Tiger Woods walks with his golfing coach Sean Foley during a practice round for the Players Championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.
Associated Press

Woods says strength is back, but not swing

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

WINDEMERE, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods is too busy in the gym to find a new swing coach, or even swing a golf club. Woods said Monday his strength has returned from “busting my butt in the gym pretty hard” and he is on schedule to resume competition in December. But he still hasn’t hit a golf ball since he missed the cut at the PGA Championship on Aug. 8, and still doesn’t know when he will. “We’re pretty much past the strength phase now, and I’ve got my strength where I want to have it,” Woods said at Isleworth Golf & Country Club, where he lived for the first 15 years of his pro career. “Now I just need to get my fast twitch going and get my speed back, and that’s going to take a little bit of time. That’s part of our second phase of training. And that’s coming up now.”

Continued on Page 22



LIGHTNING STRIKE

Gates' 3 TD catches carry Bolts to 30-21 upset

San Diego Chargers tight end Antonio Gates scores past Seattle Seahawks outside linebacker K.J. Wright during the second half of an NFL football game on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014, in San Diego.

Associated Press
Page 20

Vikings reinstate Peterson after abuse charge

JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minnesota

(AP) — The Minnesota Vikings reinstated star running back Adrian Peterson on Monday, three days after benching him because he was facing a child-abuse charge in Texas for using a tree branch to spank his 4-year-old son.

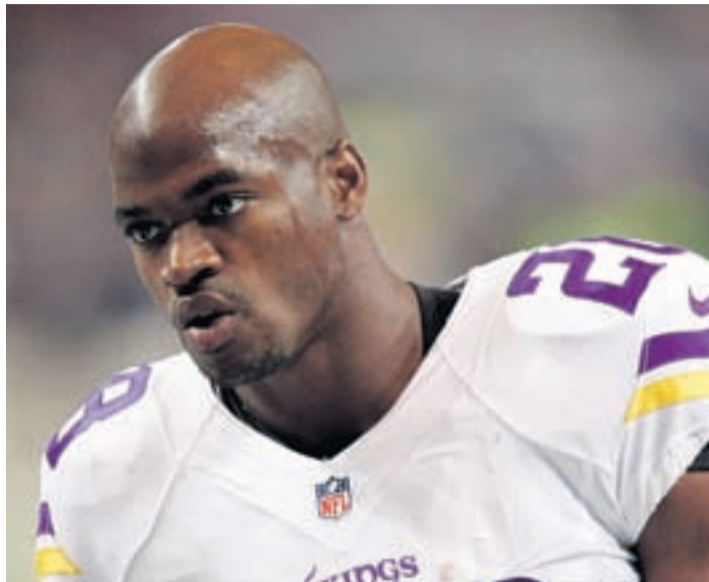
Vikings owners Zygi and Mark Wilf said the decision to bring back Peterson for practices and Sunday's game at New Orleans was made "after significant thought, discussion and consideration." Peterson was deactivated for Sunday's 30-7 loss to the New England Patriots after he was charged with striking his 4-year-old son with a tree branch this summer.

The Wilfs say they want to let the legal process play out before making any

more definitive decisions on Peterson's future with the team.

"As evidenced by our decision to deactivate Adrian from yesterday's game, this is clearly a very important issue," the owners said. "On Friday, we felt it was in the best interests of the organization to step back, evaluate the situation, and not rush to judgment given the seriousness of this matter. At that time, we made the decision that we felt was best for the Vikings and all parties involved."

"To be clear, we take very seriously any matter that involves the welfare of a child. At this time, however, we believe this is a matter of due process and we should allow the legal system to proceed so we can come to the most effective conclusions and then determine the appropriate course of



In this Sept. 7, 2014, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson warms up for an NFL football game against the St. Louis Rams in St. Louis.

Associated Press

action. This is a difficult path to navigate, and our focus is on doing the right thing. Currently we believe we are at a juncture where the most appropriate next step is to allow the judicial process to move forward." Peterson's attorney issued a

statement on Friday saying his client acknowledged striking his son as a form of discipline similar to what Peterson endured as a young boy growing up in Palestine, Texas. He said Peterson was cooperating with the investigation and

did not mean to inflict any harm on his son.

Hours later, the Vikings decided not to play Peterson against the Patriots, moving swiftly after a week in which the NFL came under heavy scrutiny for its handling of a domestic violence case involving former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice.

But unlike a previous case involving former cornerback Chris Cook, the Vikings have decided to allow Peterson to return to the field while the legal process unfolds.

In 2011, the Vikings suspended cornerback Chris Cook with pay after he was arrested for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend and barred him from all team activities while his trial played out. Cook wound up missing 10 games and was eventually acquitted. □

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Another injury for RG3; Redskins top Jaguars 41-10

The Associated Press

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP)

— LANDOVER, Maryland (AP) — Robert Griffin III dislocated his left ankle and DeSean Jackson sprained his left shoulder in the first quarter, then Kirk Cousins stepped in. He completed 22 of 33 passes for 250 yards and a pair of touchdowns Sunday in Washington's 41-10 romp past Jacksonville. Griffin was carted to the locker room with his leg in a splint and could be out for two months. He will undergo X-rays to determine if the ankle is broken.

Cousins subbed for Griffin and completed his first 12 passes. Ryan Kerrigan had four of the Redskins' 10 sacks, and Washington's defense didn't allow Jacksonville (0-2) past midfield until the final two minutes of the first half.

Washington (1-1) out-gained Jacksonville 449-148.

Browns 26, Saints 24

CLEVELAND (AP) — Billy Cundiff kicked a 29-yard field goal with 3 seconds left. Cundiff's kick helped the Browns (1-1) snap a nine-game losing streak in home openers and gave rookie coach Mike Pettine his first NFL win.

Brian Hoyer drove the Browns 85 yards in 14 plays in the final 2:46 to set up Cundiff's winner. Hoyer completed several big passes, none more crucial than his 28-yarder to Andrew Hawkins with 13 seconds to go.

The Saints (0-2) rallied from a 13-point deficit to take the lead on Mark Ingram's 1-yard TD run with 12:12 left. Drew Brees threw two touchdown passes to Jimmy Graham and moved into fourth place on the NFL's career passing list.



Cleveland Browns place kicker Billy Cundiff (8) boots a field goal out of the hold of Spencer Lanning to defeat the New Orleans Saints 26-24 in an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014, in Cleveland.

Down 24-23, Cleveland took over at its 4. Missing suspended receiver Josh Gordon and without injured Pro Bowl tight end Jordan Cameron and running back Ben Tate, Hoyer calmly took the Browns down the field.

Bengals 24, Falcons 10

CINCINNATI (AP) — One Bengals player after another hobbled off and headed to the locker room. They still had more than enough to stay unbeaten with a win over Atlanta (1-1).

Running back Giovani Bernard picked up the depleted offense by running for 90 yards. Cincinnati's defense held down Matt Ryan and the Bengals won their home opener and improved to 2-0 for the first time since 2006.

But Pro Bowl receiver A.J. Green aggravated an injured toe on his right foot, and didn't catch a pass for the first time in his four-

year career. Tight end Alex Smith injured his left biceps, right guard Kevin Zeitler hurt his right calf, and Pro Bowl linebacker Vontaze Burfict left in the second half with a pinched nerve in his neck. Burfict suffered a concussion in a season-opening win at Baltimore and missed practice during the week.

Bills 29, Dolphins 10.

ORCHARD PARK, New York (AP) — C.J. Spiller scored on a 102-yard kickoff return, and rookie receiver Sammy Watkins had a 12-yard touchdown catch. The Dolphins (1-1) also lost a key offseason addition when running back Knowshon Moreno did not return after hurting his left elbow 11 minutes in.

Spiller and Watkins, the Clemson connection, both scored in the third quarter, putting Buffalo (2-0) ahead 23-10.

The Bills rode the momen-

tum of a charged-up crowd in a home opener that celebrated the franchise's past and future. The Bills paid tribute to late owner Ralph Wilson, who died in March. On Tuesday, Wilson's estate reached a "definitive agreement" to sell the team to Terry and Kim Pegula for an NFL-record \$1.4 billion. Patriots 30, Vikings 7

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Tom Brady and the Patriots took advantage of Adrian Peterson's absence and Matt Cassel's four interceptions. Chandler Jones returned a field goal he blocked for a touchdown right before halftime. Brady went 15 for 22 for 149 yards, one touchdown and no turnovers, and Cassel's first start against his close friend and former mentor was a dud. Devin McCourty, Darrelle Revis, Logan Ryan and Dominique Easley all picked him off,

setting up 17 points for the Patriots, prompting "Teddy! Teddy! Teddy!" chants from the crowd for the rookie Bridgewater.

Peterson was shelved for the game after a charge of child abuse was levied against him Friday in Texas. Panthers 24, Lions 7

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Cam Newton made a successful return to the field, throwing for 281 yards and a touchdown. Newton, who missed the season opener with a rib injury, was 22 of 34 and overcame five sacks. Carolina started 2-0 for the first time since 2008. Trailing 7-6 in the third quarter, the Panthers took advantage of back-to-back Detroit turnovers and scored on three straight possessions.

Carolina's defense, playing without Pro Bowl defensive end Greg Hardy, had three takeaways and held the Lions (1-1) scoreless in the first half one week after Matthew Stafford and company put up 35 points against the Giants.

Cowboys 26, Titans 10

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — DeMarco Murray ran for 167 yards and a touchdown and Dan Bailey kicked four field goals. The loss spoiled Tennessee first-year coach Ken Whisenhunt's home debut.

Dallas (1-1) scored the first 16 points of the game in the first half.

Even the beleaguered Dallas defense got into the act, coming up with two sacks and two interceptions.

Tony Romo easily shook off his three interceptions in the season-opening loss to San Francisco. With Murray running so well, Romo was 19 of 29 for 176 yards and a TD. □



United States' James Harden holds the trophy as he celebrates with teammates after winning the final World Basketball match between the United States and Serbia at the Palacio de los Deportes stadium in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014.

Associated Press

U.S. basketball reigns in Spain, awaits Rio Olympics

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

MADRID (AP) — It feels like so long ago, though it's been only a decade.

The U.S. was the three-time defending Olympic champion, but had become a mess of a basketball program. The Americans had embarrassed themselves at home in the 2002 world championship, and when they haphazardly put together their team for the 2004 Olympics, nobody should have been surprised if they lost.

That's exactly what happened. Puerto Rico blew them out 92-73 in their opener.

Now the Americans run perhaps the most stable program in the world, gold medalists at both the men's and women's, senior and junior levels. Yet Mike Krzyzewski will prepare as if their opener in Rio de Janeiro is as uncertain as the one in Athens.

"I think we can lose our next game," Krzyzewski said. "I mean, that's the way we prepare because we know how good everyone is."

The Americans are the best, proving that again with a 129-92 victory over Serbia on Sunday to win the Basketball World Cup. That gave the U.S. consecutive world titles to go with its back-to-back Olympic gold medals. The Americans have won with powerhouse rosters in the Olympics and beatable ones in the worlds, and they could go to Brazil with their best one yet.

LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony and Chris Paul would be welcomed back if they want a shot at a third straight Olympic gold. Kevin Durant and Kevin Love might want to return after pulling out this summer. And there are plenty of guys on this year's team who showed they will earn consideration, from tournament MVP Kyrie Irving and fellow guards James Harden, Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson, to forwards Anthony Davis and Kenneth Faried.

And don't forget how much better Derrick Rose could be in two years after struggling during this tournament in his return after missing most of the last two seasons following two knee operations.

If nobody could beat a depleted U.S. team this summer, how could anyone touch that team in 2016?

"If we come back with a lack of focus," Curry said. "We can't take anything for granted."

This is big-time competition, teams recharge and refuel in these two years and get ready for the Olympics. So if we — whatever group

suits up and flies down to Brazil for the Olympics — if we're not prepared with the same mentality that we had here and Istanbul and London and Beijing, we're capable of being beaten. So we have to come with that same focus and energy that we did and keep this dominance going."

This was supposed to be the summer where it could end. Spain had nearly beaten stronger U.S. teams in the last two Olympic gold-medal games, and this time would have home-court advantage and a roster of all the players it wanted while the Americans would settle for whoever would come.

Another matchup in the gold-medal game was widely expected until France stunned the Spaniards in the quarterfinals.

"Spain's a magnificent program, a magnificent team, and it just takes one bad day.

One bad day. And so what we're trying to do is make sure we don't have bad days," Krzyzewski said. "And so far it's worked out."

The Americans have had only one under Krzyzewski and USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo, a loss to Greece in the semifinals of the 2006 world championship, their first tournament.

The U.S. always had the best possible talent, even when it was losing six times between 2002 and '04. Now the Americans may also have the best leadership and infrastructure, and it's made the gap with the rest of the world seem larger than ever.

There will be 11 spots open in 2016, assuming Colangelo sticks to his previous plan to save a spot for Paul George, who broke his right leg during training for this tournament. It's hard to envision any challenger to whatever team is picked, with Spain and Argentina getting old, and Serbia and Lithuania maybe a little young.

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Papelbon blows save as Phils lose to Marlins 5-4

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia closer Jonathan Papelbon made a lewd gesture to fans and was ejected after giving up four runs in the ninth inning during the Phillies' 5-4 loss to the Miami Marlins on Sunday.

Papelbon grabbed his crotch as he walked to the dugout and was ejected by crew chief Joe West. He jogged out of the dugout and got into a face-to-face argument with West, who grasped the pitcher's jersey to hold him off, and Papelbon then argued with first base umpire Marty Foster. Papelbon threw a cup of liquid on the field before leaving the dugout. Papelbon (2-3) had converted 14 straight save chances since July 22 when he entered with a 4-1 lead in the ninth. Papelbon gave up Jarrod Saltalamacchia's double, Kike Hernandez's walk, Adeiny Hechavarria's infield single, Jordany Valdespin's RBI groundout, Christian Yelich's run-scoring infield single and pinch-hitter Justin Bour's tying single.

After Casey McGehee struck out, Papelbon bounced a wild pitch past catcher Carlos Ruiz as Yelich scored the go-ahead run.

Anthony DeSclafani (2-2) got the final out of the eighth. Steve Cishek allowed his first to batters to reach in the ninth, then struck out Ben Revere, Maikel Franco and Chase Utley for his 35th save.

DODGERS 4, GIANTS 2
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Clayton Kershaw (19-3) allowed two runs and seven hits in seven innings and struck out nine, taking over the big league lead in wins and lowering his majors-best ERA to 1.70. Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for his 42nd save. Matt Kemp hit his 20th homer.

Yusmeiro Petit (5-4) gave up four runs — three earned — and eight hits in seven innings. He struck out eight and walked none.

NATIONALS 3, METS 0

NEW YORK (AP) — Wilson Ramos hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh off Jonathon Niese (8-11) as the Nationals won their ninth straight start with Jordan Zimmermann (11-5), who allowed six hits and a walk in 6 2-3 innings.

Washington reduced its magic number for winning a second division title in three years to four and eliminated the Mets from the division race.

Zimmermann (11-5) hit Eric Young Jr. and Lucas Duda; nine batters were hit in the four-game series, one shy of the record set last year in a Pirates-Reds series, according to STATS.

PIRATES 7, CUBS 3

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Third baseman Josh Harrison started Pittsburgh's first triple play at home in 21 years and hit a tying two-run double in a six-run fifth against Jacob Turner (5-10).

Chicago led 3-0 and put runners on first and second in the fourth when Matt Szczur grounded to third. Harrison began a around-the-horn 5-4-3 triple play, throwing to second baseman Neil Walker, who relayed to first baseman Andrew Lambo.

Edinson Volquez (12-7) allowed three runs — one earned — four hits and five walks in seven innings. The Pirates maintained a 1 1/2-game lead over Milwaukee for the NL's second wild card.

Chicago, which last won the World Series in 1908, was eliminated from post-season contention.

CARDINALS 4, ROCKIES 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Rookie Marco Gonzales (3-2) struck out nine batters in 5 2-3 innings and Jhonny Peralta homered as St. Louis remained 3 1/2 games ahead of second-place Pittsburgh in the NL Central. Trevor Rosenthal struck out the side in the ninth for his NL-leading 44th save, giving St. Louis pitchers 16 strikeouts. Jordan Lyles (6-3) was the loser. □



Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Jonathan Papelbon gestures to the crowd after giving up four runs to the Miami Marlins during the ninth inning of a baseball game Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014, in Philadelphia. Associated Press

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Kinsler, Martinez HRs help Tigers beat Indians 6-4

DETROIT (AP) — Ian Kinsler hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning as the Detroit Tigers reopened a 1 1/2-game American League Central lead by beating the Cleveland Indians 6-4 Sunday for a three-game sweep.

Kinsler's homer off Bryan Shaw (5-5), his first since Aug. 30, followed Rajai Davis' infield single and put the Tigers ahead 4-3.

Phil Coke (5-2) pitched a scoreless seventh for Detroit, which won for the sixth time in seven games and has its largest division lead since before play on Aug. 10.

Joe Nathan gave up his Carlos Santana's RBI double in the ninth before getting his 32nd save.

ORIOLES 3, YANKEES 2

BALTIMORE (AP) — Steve Pearce doubled in a ninth-inning run and scored the game-winner on a double by Kelly Johnson as the Orioles beat the Yankees to inch closer to the AL East title.

Any number of Orioles wins and Toronto losses totaling three will give Baltimore its



Detroit Tigers' Ian Kinsler hits a two-run home run against the Cleveland Indians during the seventh inning of a baseball game Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014, in Detroit.

Associated Press

first division title since 1997. The winning rally came after Brian McCann hit a tie-breaking homer off Darren O'Day (5-1) in the top of the ninth.

Nelson Cruz opened the bottom half with double off David Roberson (2-5). Pinch-runner Quintin Berry scored on Pearce's liner

into the left-field corner, and one out later, Johnson — a former Yankee — delivered the game-winner into the gap in right-center. Baltimore celebrated its seventh win in eight games by crowding around Johnson at second base.

RED SOX 8, ROYALS 4
KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— Daniel Nava hit a grand slam and Xander Bogaerts added a three-run drive as Boston overcame a 4-0, third-inning deficit. Kansas City, which lost three of four to the last-place Red Sox, maintained a one-game lead over Seattle for the second AL wild card.

Jason Vargas (11-9) allowed five runs and four hits in 5 1-3 innings, while Joe Kelly gave up four runs and five hits in six innings. Eric Hosmer hit a three-run homer in a four-run second off Joe Kelly (2-2) that included Omar Infante's run-scoring grounder.

ASTROS 6, ANGELS 1
ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Dallas Keuchel (11-9) didn't allow a hit until Mike Trout's one-out single in the seventh as Houston ended the Angels' 10-game winning streak, one short of the team record set in 1964.

Keuchel (11-9) wound up giving up one run and three hits in seven innings. Hector Santiago (5-8) allowed three runs, five hits and five walks in two-plus innings and lost for the first time in 13 starts and three

relief appearances since June 15.

The Angels' AL West lead was cut to 10 games over second-place Oakland.

ATHLETICS 4, MARINERS 0
SEATTLE (AP) — Sam Fuld and Brandon Moss hit solo home runs, and Jon Lester (15-10) combined with three relievers on a seven-hitter to improve to 5-3 with the A's.

Oakland won consecutive games for the first time since Aug. 22-23 and opened a 1 1/2-game lead over Kansas City for the first AL wild card.

Chris Young (12-8) pitched six innings for the first time since Aug. 17, but allowed two homers in a start at Safeco Field for the first time this season.

RANGERS 10, BRAVES 3
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)

— Colby Lewis (10-13) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings and Luis Sardinas doubled his career total with four RBIs as Texas completed a three-game sweep — the Rangers' first sweep since April 21-23 in a three-game set at Oakland. □

Woods

Continued from Page 17

Woods had his fifth surgery in 20 years — this time on his back — and failed to win a PGA Tour event for the third time in the last five years.

Rory McIlroy referred to Woods and Phil Mickelson as being on "the last few holes" of their careers when he was asked about the two best players of their generation not being eligible for the Tour Championship for the first time since 1992. McIlroy simply was noting their ages (Woods turns 39 in December, Mickelson is 44) and their injuries. And when "the last few holes" became an Internet sensation and McIlroy was asked if he needed to explain his remarks to Woods, he replied with a laugh, "I've said worse to his face."

Woods response?

"I thought it was funny," he said. "Phil has less holes to play than I do, though. It's a reality, you know? We're

all older. I'm nearing my 20th season on tour here coming up pretty soon. ... It's just part of the aging process."

The Tiger Woods Foundation announced that India-based Hero Motocorp would be the new title sponsor of Woods' year-end charity event, which is moving to Isleworth from Sherwood Country Club in California. The tournament will played Dec. 4-7.

Woods played an exhibition in India in February when he met Pawan Munjal, the vice chairman and CEO of Hero. "That's my last good round I played all year," Woods said. "I shot 63 that day." Even though he smiled, there was some truth to that. A nagging back injury became progressively worse until Woods chose to have back surgery March 31, forcing him to miss the Masters for the first time and the



In this July 16, 2014, file photo, Tiger Woods is watched by coach Sean Foley on the practice green ahead of the British Open Golf championship at the Royal Liverpool golf club in, Hoylake, England.

Associated Press

U.S. Open during a three-month recovery. When he returned, Woods missed the cut twice, had his worst 72-hole finish in a major and withdrew from a World

Golf Championship when he jarred his back hopping off a steep slope into the bunker in the final round at Firestone. He didn't qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs

for the second time, both injury related. And he took himself out of consideration as a Ryder Cup pick. Woods didn't regret coming back too soon. He said he didn't realize how much stamina he lacked. "I felt good enough to do it, and the only unfortunate part is I couldn't maintain the conditioning," Woods said. "I wasn't as conditioned as I needed to be. So as the tournament would wear on, I would get more and more fatigued and tired, and I wasn't as explosive. I wasn't as strong. ... I could lift the weights that I'm accustomed to lifting, as well as playing and practicing. "Eventually, the game started to deteriorate a little bit because ... I wasn't in good enough shape to maintain it." He said his conditioning program is similar to when he returned from reconstructive knee surgery after winning the 2008 U.S. Open, his last major title. □

'Minecraft' could boost Microsoft's mobile reach

**MAE ANDERSON
BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft's decision to spend \$2.5 billion for the creator of the hit game "Minecraft" could help the Xbox maker grab attention on mobile phones, a new priority for the company.

But the move carries risks, as gamers can be fickle. Although the Lego-like multiplayer game is currently the top paid app for the iPhone and Android devices in the U.S., today's popular hit could be tomorrow's dud. The maker of the much-obsessed-over "Candy Crush Saga," for example, rode the game's popularity to go public this year, only to see its stock falter.

In addition, the founders of Mojang, the Swedish company behind "Minecraft," aren't staying with Microsoft. That could raise questions about Mojang's ability to create another big hit. Then again, a big hit was not what co-founder Markus "Notch" Persson was after when he created the game, according to a blog post Monday from Mojang and a note from Persson himself on his website.

"It certainly seems like the founders of 'Minecraft' didn't want to continue forward," Gartner analyst Brian Blau said. "It was something too big for them. 'Minecraft' is best in the hands of somebody who can take it in the direction it needs to go for the user."

Microsoft has made mobile phones and Internet services priorities for the company as its traditional businesses — Windows and Office software installed on desktops — slow down or decline. With "Minecraft," Blau said, Microsoft gains a new type of customer — mobile players.

"'Minecraft' is very popular on mobile," Blau said. "It has an audience that wouldn't necessarily think of Microsoft first. The mobile audience is typically Apple and Samsung."

"Minecraft" is an "open

world" game in gamer lingo, meaning it has no plot or outlined objectives. Players can explore and create virtual worlds built from blocky 3-D objects — thus the frequent Lego comparisons.

"It can also be about adventuring with friends or

Macs, Microsoft's Xbox and Sony's PlayStation. Microsoft said it will continue to make "Minecraft" available on all those platforms after the deal closes, expected this year.

With an all-ages "E" rating, the game has been downloaded 100 million times on

parents might not be comfortable with them going on wild alien shootouts.

Microsoft is not alone in trying to reach that audience. Activision Blizzard Inc., the maker of the "Call of Duty" shooter series, also makes "Skylanders," a kids' video game that's played

to buy Twitch, the online network that lets people watch live and recorded footage of others playing video games.

"Change is scary, and this is a big change for all of us. It's going to be good though. Everything is going to be OK," Owen Hill, Mojang's "chief word officer," wrote in a blog post Monday. "Minecraft will continue to evolve, just like it has since the start of development. We don't know specific plans for Minecraft's future yet, but we do know that everyone involved wants the community to grow and become even more amazing than it's ever been," he continued. The acquisition will help Microsoft expand its gaming division. Besides "Halo," it includes the "Forza" racing game. In a statement, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said that with "Minecraft," Microsoft is getting "an open world platform, driven by a vibrant community we care deeply about, and rich with new opportunities for that community and for Microsoft."

Blau said it helps that Microsoft knows games.

"It's got the Xbox," he said. "So overall ... it's a good move and a good fit because they have experience in the game industry." □



This July 3, 2014 file photo taken with a fisheye lens shows Microsoft Corp. signage outside the Microsoft Visitor Center in Redmond, Wash. Associated Press

watching the sun rise over a blocky ocean. It's pretty. Brave players battle terrible things in The Nether, which is more scary than pretty. You can also visit a land of mushrooms if it sounds more like your cup of tea," Minecraft's website explains.

Besides iPhones and Android devices, the game is available on Windows,

personal computers since its debut in 2009, and it's the most popular online game on Microsoft's Xbox console.

Microsoft, which released the first Xbox in 2001, also owns the blockbuster "Halo" video game franchise. Unlike "Halo," though, "Minecraft" is especially popular with younger gamers whose

using toy figures.

Now, it will be Microsoft's job to keep Minecraft's loyal fan base happy. It's something raised any time big, established corporations buy little, much-loved independent companies. It happened when Facebook bought photo-sharing app Instagram in 2012 and more recently when Amazon.com Inc. agreed

Chinese city creates cellphone sidewalk lane

DIDI TANG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Taking a cue from an American TV program, the Chinese city of Chongqing has created a smartphone sidewalk lane, offering a path for those too engrossed in messaging and tweeting to watch where they're going.

But the property manager says it's intended to be ironic — to remind people that it's dangerous to tweet while walking the street.

"There are lots of elderly people and children in our street, and walking with your cellphone may cause unnecessary collisions here," said Nong Cheng,

the marketing official with Meixin Group, which manages the area in the city's entertainment zone.

Meixin has marked a 50-meter (165-foot) stretch of pavement with two lanes: one that prohibits cellphone use next to one that allows pedestrians to use them — at their "own risk."

Nong said the idea came from a similar stretch of pavement in Washington D.C. created by National Geographic Television in July as part of a behavior experiment.

She said that pedestrians were not taking the new lanes seriously, but that many were snapping pic-



In this photo taken Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014, residents walk on a lane painted with instructions to separate those using their phones as they walk from others in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality. Associated Press

tures of the signs and sidewalk.

"Those using their cellphones of course have

not heeded the markings on the pavement," she said. "They don't notice them." □

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Heineken rejects SABMiller takeover

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Family-controlled brewer Heineken says it has rejected a takeover bid by rival SABMiller. In a statement issued late Sunday night, the Dutch brewer said the Heineken family informed SABMiller it intends "to preserve the heritage and identity of Heineken as an independent company." Heineken did not release any details of the SABMiller bid. Heineken is the world's third largest brewer while SABMiller, producer of brands including Miller Genuine Draft and Grolsch, is the second largest. Anheuser-Busch InBev, famous for its Budweiser and Corona brands, is the world's largest brewer. In February, Heineken reported a 52 percent fall in net profit for 2013, to 1.36 billion euros from 2012, when it booked a one-time gain of 1.49 billion euros on its Asian Pacific Breweries business. □

Danaher to buy Nobel Biocare for \$2B

WASHINGTON (AP) — Danaher is buying Switzerland's Nobel Biocare for about \$2.2 billion in cash as the healthcare and industrial company pushes for market share in the global dental sector. Danaher, an industrial and medical equipment maker, will start an all-cash tender offer of 17.10 Swiss francs (\$18.27) for each Nobel Biocare share. Nobel Biocare Holding AG had revenue of approximately \$750 million last year. It will join Washington-based Danaher Corp.'s dental unit. The acquisition is subject to customary conditions including the tender of 67 percent of outstanding shares in the offer, regulatory approvals and the absence of material adverse change for Nobel Biocare. The deal is expected to be completed later this year or in early 2015. □

Cognizant is buying TriZetto for \$2.7B

TEANECK, N.J. (AP) — Cognizant will buy the health care software company TriZetto for \$2.7 billion in cash. Privately held TriZetto Corp. is based in Englewood, Colorado. The company and its 3,700 workers will join Cognizant's existing health care information technology business, the company said Monday. The information technology consulting and outsourcing company is expecting the acquisition to significantly accelerate its market position. Health care currently makes up about 26 percent of Cognizant's revenue. Company President Gordon Coburn said that the deal will provide an opportunity to integrate across traditional IT services; high-growth businesses such as management consulting, business process services and IT services and emerging delivery models. □

Danish TDC to buy Get for \$2.2 billion

HELSINKI (AP) — Danish TDC telecom group says it plans to acquire Norway's leading cable TV company Get AS, in a deal valued at 13.8 billion kroner (\$2.2 billion). TDC says the transaction would provide "considerable synergy opportunities" and will make it Scandinavia's largest communication and home entertainment company with some 1.7 million households in Denmark and Norway. TDC has around 1.2 million TV customers of whom about 500,000 are also broadband customers, while Get serves 500,000 households and businesses in Norway. TDC said Monday that Get has delivered double-digit percentage growth almost every year since 2000 and is one of "the most innovative and profitable" cable TV companies in Europe. The transaction, expected to close by the end of the year, is subject to approval by Norway's competition authorities. □

Stocks end mixed ahead of Fed

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors played it safe on Monday ahead of a potentially pivotal Federal Reserve meeting. While large company stocks ended the day little changed, smaller, riskier stocks slumped.

Fed policy makers start a two-day meeting on Tuesday and many investors expect the central bank to indicate that it is moving closer to raising its key interest rate as the economy continues to strengthen. The Fed has held the rate close to zero for more than five years, and stocks have surged against that backdrop.

"Reading the tea leaves, it seems that investors are trying to position themselves for a more aggressive Fed," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank.

The Dow Jones industrial

\$76, after touching an all-time high. The brewer's stock jumped on merger news in the beer industry. Heineken said late Sunday that it has rejected a takeover bid by rival SABMiller, the world's second-largest brewer. Reports said that SABMiller tried to buy Heineken as a defense against an acquisition bid from Anheuser-Busch InBev, the industry leader. The news on the economy on Monday was mixed.

U.S. manufacturing output declined in August for the first time in seven months, reflecting a sharp fall in production at auto plants. Output at manufacturing plants fell 0.4 percent in August after a 0.7 percent rise in July, the Federal Reserve reported.

On the other hand, a gauge of manufacturing in New York state jumped to 27.5 in August from 14.7 in July.

it hasn't stagnated the economy," said Pavlik. "The market does well if interest rates move up gradually."

In government bond trading, prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which falls when prices rise, dropped to 2.59 percent from 2.61 percent late Friday, when it reached a two-month high.

Another big event that traders are watching this week is Thursday's independence referendum in Scotland. With opinion polls showing the vote too close to call, there's potential for some sizeable move in U.K. markets. The pound has turned volatile in recent weeks as opinion polls have narrowed. On Monday, the pound was 0.2 percent lower at \$1.6231.

In other currency trading, the dollar gained against the euro, but fell against the Japanese yen. The dol-



Specialist John Parisi, center, works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, Sept. 15, 2014. Investors played it safe on Monday ahead of a potentially pivotal Federal Reserve meeting. While large company stocks ended the day little changed, smaller, riskier stocks slumped. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

average rose 43.63 points, or 0.3 percent, to 17,031.14. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 1.41, or 0.1 percent, to 1,984.13. The Nasdaq composite fell 48.70 points, or 1.1 percent, to 4,518.90.

The Russell 2000 index, an index of small company stocks, slipped 14.09 points, or 1.2 percent, to 1,146.52. Among individual stocks, Molson Coors was the biggest gainer in the S&P 500. The brewer's stock rose \$4.20, or 5.8 percent, to

Some strategists say that investors shouldn't focus too much about the upcoming Fed meeting, because policy makers will keep rates low until they are convinced that the economic recovery is entrenched. Any sell-off caused by Fed worries may even present investors with a buying opportunity, said Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners.

"It's not going to be the first time that interest rates have moved up, and

lar rose 0.2 percent to \$1.29 per euro. It fell 0.1 percent to 107.2 against the yen.

Oil reversed an early decline and finished with a gain amid forecasts that the latest Energy Department report on U.S. oil supplies, due Wednesday, will show a decline. Benchmark U.S. crude oil rose 65 cents to \$92.92 a barrel. Brent crude, a benchmark for international crude oils imported by many U.S. refineries, slipped 2 cents to \$96.65. □

Apple: Record 4M orders of iPhones on 1st day

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple had more than 4 million advance orders of its new, larger iPhones in the first 24 hours, exceeding its initial supply, the company said Monday.

The iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus will be delivered to customers starting Friday and throughout September, but many won't be delivered until October, Apple said. Phones will still be available

Friday on a walk-in basis at Apple retail stores and from various wireless carriers and authorized Apple resellers.

Apple's website had intermittent outages last Friday because of heavy traffic as orders began online. The company said the 4 million orders set a new 24-hour record, beating the 2 million orders in 2012. That was for the iPhone 5, the previous time Apple increased the

iPhone's screen size.

Last year, Apple sold 9 million iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c phones in the first three days they were on sale, but the company didn't say how many came in the first 24 hours of advance orders. The iPhone 5, 5s and 5c have screens measuring 4 inches diagonally. The iPhone 6 is 4.7 inches, and the iPhone 6 Plus is 5.5 inches.

Besides larger screens, the

new phones announced last week offer faster performance and a wireless chip for making credit card payments at retail stores by holding the phone near the payment terminal. The phones start at \$199 with a two-year service contract. The new phones will initially be available in the U.S., Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Puerto Rico, Singapore

and the U.K. Availability will expand to more than 20 additional countries a week later.

A free update to Apple's iOS software for mobile devices will be available to existing users on Wednesday. The new phones will come with the update, known as iOS 8.

Apple's stock rose 30 cents to \$101.96 in midday trading Monday. □

Hong Kong rethinks rules after Alibaba IPO loss

KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Alibaba's choice of New

York over Hong Kong for its blockbuster IPO was a blow for the Chinese financial center. Now, the city's stock market is starting to rethink rules that stopped it from accommodating the Chinese e-commerce

giant's unique management setup. As China's leading financial center with its own currency and

separate Western-style legal system, Hong Kong has been the traditional first choice for Chinese enterprises going public outside the mainland. But Alibaba settled earlier this year on New York for its stock market listing after Hong Kong refused to make an exception for the company's partnership system in which a small group of company insiders nominate the majority of the board of directors without owning a controlling stake. The initial public offering may raise more than \$24 billion, making it the biggest ever. Trading of Alibaba shares is expected to begin in New York later this week. Executives at Hangzhou, China-based Alibaba said its partnership system was necessary for preserving the company's innovative culture, but Hong Kong's listing committee said it would go against the exchange's "one share, one vote" principle that's aimed at treating all investors equally. Alibaba found a more receptive welcome in the United States, where it's common for big companies including tech giants such as Facebook, Google and LinkedIn to have dual-class share structures that empower one shareholder or a group of shareholders over others.

Other Chinese tech firms that have had recently listed in the U.S., including web search company Baidu and online retailer JD.com, have dual classes of stock.

"People say that Hong Kong lost Alibaba but to me, I think Alibaba missed this great opportunity to list in Hong Kong. It's very regrettable," founder Jack Ma told reporters Monday in the southern Chinese financial center, the latest stop on the company's global roadshow for the share sale.

Ma chalked the loss up to poor timing, preparation or communications but stressed there were no hard feelings.

He said the company would "continue to love Hong Kong" and that the city "shouldn't change its principles just for one company."

The loss of Alibaba's IPO led to some hand-wringing in Hong Kong financial circles over whether the rules in Asia's second biggest stock exchange should be changed to allow new shareholding structures. □



Alibaba Group founder and Executive Chairman Jack Ma speaks to reporters before an IPO road show at a hotel in Hong Kong Monday, Sept. 15, 2014. Alibaba's choice of New York over Hong Kong for its blockbuster IPO was a blow for the Chinese financial center. Now, the city's stock market is starting to rethink rules that stopped it from accommodating the Chinese e-commerce giant's unique management setup. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

York over Hong Kong for its blockbuster IPO was a blow for the Chinese financial center. Now, the city's

giant's unique management setup. As China's leading financial center with its own currency and

prises going public outside the mainland. But Alibaba settled earlier this year on New York for

ZF buying TRW Automotive for about \$11.74B

LIVONIA, Mich. (AP) — German automotive transmission maker ZF Friedrichshafen AG is buying Michigan-based TRW Automotive for \$11.74 billion, a move that creates the world's second-largest auto supplier.

The deal, with a total value of about \$13.5 billion including the assumption of TRW's debt, gives ZF access to TRW's portfolio

of advanced driver assistance and safety products, including air bags and radar-activated cruise control that automatically stops cars if something is in their path. Government regulations and consumer buying preferences are moving toward cars that take on more driving tasks such as automatic emergency braking.

"It does help ZF start to trans-

form their business and expand their business to what industry is frankly moving toward," said Mike Wall, an analyst with IHS Automotive. "We're going to see the mainstream adoption of more and more of this technology in everyday vehicles."

ZF will pay \$105.60 per TRW share, a 2 percent premium to its Friday closing price of \$103.85 and

a 16 percent premium to its closing price on July 9, before ZF confirmed it was working on the deal.

TRW Automotive Holdings Corp., based in Livonia, Michigan, will be a separate division within ZF, which is based in Friedrichshafen, Germany. ZF said in a statement that the Detroit area would remain a "major business center" for the merged company.

The deal will create an automotive supplier business with combined sales of approximately \$41 billion and 138,000 employees. That would be second only to German supplier Robert Bosch GmbH, according to rankings compiled by the industry publication Automotive News. Bosch had sales of \$59 billion in 2013 and has 281,381 employees worldwide. □

Mutts



6 Chix



CLOTHES HORSES

Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			3	4				9
		1			2			
	3	7		5				
6			1				9	3
		9		8		2		
8	1				3			7
				2		9	4	
			5			3		
1			8		7			

Difficulty Level ★★

9/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

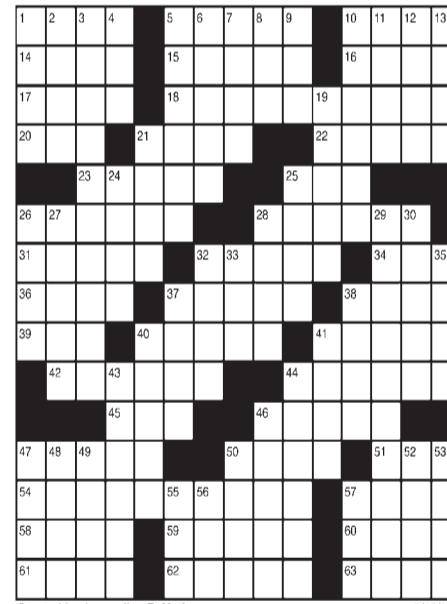
4	6	3	2	9	5	7	1	8
5	2	1	7	6	8	3	4	9
7	9	8	1	3	4	6	5	2
1	3	4	8	2	6	5	9	7
6	7	2	5	1	9	8	3	4
9	8	5	3	4	7	1	2	6
3	4	7	6	5	2	9	8	1
2	1	6	9	8	3	4	7	5
8	5	9	4	7	1	2	6	3

ACROSS

- 1 Ice cream scoop holder
- 5 Abhorred
- 10 Drove too fast
- 14 Above
- 15 Smell
- 16 ___ a ball; enjoy oneself
- 17 Doe or buck
- 18 GOP member
- 20 Conjunction
- 21 Trash barrels
- 22 Nervous
- 23 ___ apso; small long-haired dog
- 25 Dessert choice
- 26 Coils of yarn
- 28 Thin
- 31 First phase
- 32 Hammers and wrenches
- 34 Expert
- 36 At a ___ for words; speechless
- 37 Self-admiration
- 38 Rotate rapidly
- 39 Wise as an ___
- 40 Closes tightly
- 41 Baggy
- 42 Largest city in Australia
- 44 Rump ___; cuts of beef
- 45 Shade tree
- 46 Native New Zealander
- 47 Baby carrier?
- 50 Damp & chilly
- 51 Afternoon hour
- 54 Confined to one's home
- 57 Passed away
- 58 Monster
- 59 Sound portion of a telecast
- 60 Allot; pass out
- 61 Simple
- 62 Water vapor
- 63 Conclusions

DOWN

- 1 Ending musical passage
- 2 Kill
- 3 For no purpose
- 4 Blunder



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/16/14

Monday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	O	S	T	R	U	M	S	A	C	K	
O	W	N	S	T	H	O	S	E	A	B	L	E
P	E	C	K	R	U	L	E	S	L	E	A	N
S	E	A	F	A	R	E	R	S	A	D	D	S
T	I	N	S	H	E	M						
A	S	C	E	N	D	P	R	A	L	I	N	E
C	H	U	R	N	S	E	A	L	S	O	N	E
M	A	R	S	P	E	A	R	L	N	O	S	E
E	L	I	S	H	A	K	E	S	U	N	U	P
S	L	E	E	P	E	R	S	P	U	R	S	E
B	A	A	R	U	L	E	S					
S	L	O	B	S	P	L	I	N	T	E	R	S
M	A	X	I	A	L	O	F	T	R	O	A	D
O	V	E	N	N	O	B	L	E	Y	U	L	E
G	A	N	G	T	W	E	E	D	T	E	N	

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9/16/14

- 5 Annoy persistently
- 6 Amphitheater
- 7 Lids
- 8 Flightless bird
- 9 Smidgen
- 10 Black eye
- 11 Treaty
- 12 Gabor and Longoria
- 13 Declare untrue
- 19 Hideaways
- 21 Isn't able to
- 24 Rushes
- 25 Sickly-looking
- 26 Song for one
- 27 Recognizes
- 28 Assents silently
- 29 Defiance
- 30 Carpal tunnel syndrome site
- 32 Cafeteria patron's need
- 33 Lubricate
- 35 Individuals
- 37 Quick look
- 38 Fly high
- 40 Cobra or rattler
- 41 ___ at; observe
- 43 Big band leader Jimmy
- 44 At ___; haphazardly
- 46 Frenzied craze
- 47 Clog or oxford
- 48 Old Roman robe
- 49 Not theirs
- 50 City fellow on a ranch
- 52 Unite metals by heating
- 53 Lofty poems
- 55 Undergraduate degrees; abbr.
- 56 Not at home
- 57 Ike's initials

Fed

Continued from Page 7

With job growth solid, manufacturing and construction growing and unemployment at a near-normal 6.1 percent, many analysts think the Fed is edging closer to a rate increase to prevent a rising economy from igniting inflation. If so, it might send such a signal by dropping "considerable time" and substituting other language to suggest a likely rate hike by early 2015.

On the other hand, the Fed could drop "considerable time" but substitute vaguer language suggesting it might wait longer to raise rates than many expect. Yellen has cautioned that the drop in unemployment may overstate the job market's improvement. She has said the Fed also takes into account the number of people unemployed for more than six months; the number of part-timers who want full-time work; and average wages. Those measures remain less than healthy.

Whatever the Fed's intentions, some economists think it will make no major changes in its policy statement for now.

"All the trend lines for the economy look pretty good right now," said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics. "I don't think the Fed wants to upset the apple cart."

Over the past several years, the Fed's ultra-low rates have helped the economy, cheered the stock market and shrunk mortgage rates. A rate increase could threaten to reverse those trends.

In August, U.S. employers added just 142,000 jobs, well below the 212,000 average of the previous 12 months. The slowdown was seen as likely temporary. But some analysts say it underscored that the economic outlook may remain too hazy for the Fed to signal an earlier-than-expected rate hike.

The Fed was reminded last year that markets are highly sensitive to signals about the end of a prolonged period of low rates. In June

2013, when Chairman Ben Bernanke suggested that the Fed might start slowing its bond purchases before year's end, the stock market plunged over two days. And bond rates headed up, slowing the housing recovery and jolting developing countries that had benefited from ultra-low U.S. rates.

"The adverse market reaction last year really did scare the Fed," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial. "For that reason, they are treading cautiously now."

Those who think the Fed will modify the "considerable time" language this week point to recent comments from some officials. For example, Charles Plosser, president of the Fed's Philadelphia regional bank, dissented at the last Fed meeting in July because he opposed the continued use of the "considerable time" phrase. He said it didn't reflect progress the economy has made toward the Fed's goals.

Plosser is among the Fed's "hawks" — those who worry that super-low rates will stoke inflation or fuel asset bubbles.

With some hawks as well as doves expressing unease about the Fed's use of "considerable time," some analysts say the Fed could tweak the language this week even at the risk of jolting markets.

"The Fed has been a major player in supporting the rise in the stock market, and that makes the markets highly sensitive," said David Jones, the author of a new history of the Fed. "But if the Fed doesn't start to signal the coming end of extremely low rates, the markets will keep rallying and the correction will be even sharper when it does come." Jones expects the Fed to drop the "considerable time" language. He also thinks it will modify its statement's reference to "significant underutilization of labor resources" to note the strengthening job market. He expects the first rate increase by March.

But David Wyss, a former Fed economist who teaches at Brown University, said he still foresees June as the most likely time. □

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Study: Leaky wells, not fracking, taint water

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The drilling procedure called fracking didn't cause much-publicized cases of tainted groundwater in areas of the states of Pennsylvania and Texas, a new study finds. Instead, it blames the contamination on problems in pipes and seals in natural gas wells. After looking at dozens of cases of suspected contamination, the scientists focused on eight hydraulically fractured wells in those states, where they chemically linked the tainted water to the gas wells. They then used chemical analysis to figure out when in the process of gas extraction methane leaked into groundwater.

"We found the evidence suggested that fracking was not to blame, that it was actually a well integrity issue," said Ohio State University geochemist Thomas Darrah, lead author of the study. He said those results are good news because that type of contamination problem is easier to fix and is more preventable.

The work was released Monday by The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In fracking, highly pressurized chemicals and water are pumped deep underground to break shale and release natural gas for harvesting.

The fracking process has become highly charged. It started a boom of natural gas drilling and with it, an initial surge of reports of water contamination nearby. People started pointing fingers at the fracking process, thinking that the frac-



This 2012 image provided by Stanford University, shows fracking operations at a wellpad overlying the Marcellus Formation in Pennsylvania.

turing allowed methane to travel up, outside the pipes, into water supplies.

In at least two cases around one well in Texas, scientists saw people's homes have their water supplies go from clean to contaminated during the year of study, with methane levels jumping ten-fold, said Stanford University environmental sciences professor Rob Jackson, co-author of the study. Methane while not particularly toxic is explosive and a potent greenhouse gas.

"I don't think homeowners care what step in the process the water contamination comes," Jackson said. "They just care that their lives have changed because drilling has moved next door."

The scientists reached their conclusions by chemi-

cally analyzing methane and other chemicals in the groundwater. That let them link the contamination to particular wells, and then to discover what part of the drilling process was responsible. For example, they studied the precise proportions of methane, helium, neon and argon. Those proportions pointed to leaky pipes and seals, because the results would

have been different if the contamination had come from fracking.

Since the fracking boom started in Pennsylvania in 2008, the state has identified 243 cases of private water supply contamination "impacted by oil and gas activities." That is out of more than 20,000 wells drilled there.

Jackson and colleagues have been studying wa-

ter contamination around natural gas wells for years and for this study they didn't chose a random sample, but aimed at areas that seemed to have most complaints of contamination. And even in those areas, it was only in a minority of dozens of sites that they could they connect the contamination to the natural gas wells, he said. In some cases, the contamination was natural and had no connection to gas wells, Jackson said.

Terry Engelder, a professor of geosciences at Pennsylvania State University who wasn't part of the study, praised it, saying "focusing on frack fluids at depth is not the real problem."

The problem of leaky wells is one the gas industry has known about for decades, Darrah said. That includes the pipes the gas flow through and the cement that encases the pipes, keeping it from escaping.

It is possible the high pressure of fracking or the bends in unconventional wells could lead to problems with the well's piping, but there's no evidence yet proving that, Jackson said. Another issue could be the hurry drillers are in during a boom, leading to poor quality wells, he said.

Associated Press

NASA inspector blasts asteroid protection program

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — NASA's effort to identify potentially dangerous space rocks has taken a hit.

On Monday, the space agency's inspector general released a report blasting NASA's Near Earth Objects program, which is meant to hunt and catalog comets, asteroids and relatively large fragments of these objects that pass within 28 million miles (45 million kilometers) of Earth. The purpose is to protect the planet against their potential dangers.

Most near-Earth objects

harmlessly disintegrate before reaching Earth's surface. But there are exceptions, like the nearly 60-foot meteor that exploded over Russia in 2013, causing considerable damage.

In a 44-page report, Inspector General Paul Martin said the Near Earth Objects program needs to be better organized and managed, with a bigger staff. NASA's science mission chief, former astronaut John Grunsfeld, agreed and promised the problems will be fixed.

For nearly a decade, the report noted, NASA has been tracking near-Earth objects bigger than 460 feet (140

million meters) across. The goal was to catalog 90 percent by 2020.

The space agency has discovered and plotted the orbits of more than 11,000 near-Earth objects since 1998, an estimated 10 percent. It does not expect to meet the 2020 deadline.

The program has insufficient oversight, Martin's office concluded, and no established milestones to track progress. In addition, NASA needs to do a better job of overseeing the various observatories searching for near-Earth objects, and teaming up with other U.S. and international agencies, the report said.

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Clooney to receive HFPA's Cecil B. DeMille Award



In this Oct. 1, 2013 file photo, actor George Clooney attends the premiere of "Gravity" at the AMC Lincoln Square Theaters, in New York.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — George Clooney is sure to take home a trophy at next year's Golden Globe Awards.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Monday that the 53-year-old entertainer and activist will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the ceremony on Jan. 11, 2015.

The award is presented annually to an individual who's made "an incredible impact on the world of en-

tertainment."

Association president Theo Kingma cited Clooney's achievements on both sides of the camera and his humanitarian efforts around the world.

Clooney has won two Oscars and three Golden Globes. He's also been recognized for his efforts to bring attention to atrocities in Darfur and for producing the "Help Haiti Now" telethon to raise money after the devastating earthquake there in 2010. □

Kiss raises \$1 million for Oregon military museum

LAKE OSWEGO, Oregon (AP) — The band Kiss shed the makeup and pulled out acoustic guitars to raise money for the renovation of the Oregon Military Museum. The Oregonian reports (<http://bit.ly/1q7Ricb>) the \$2,500-a-ticket gala Sunday night in Lake Oswego raised more than \$1 million. The museum is named for the father of lead guitarist Tommy Thayer.

He is Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer, now 93, a World War II hero who liberated a

Nazi death camp.

The museum is at the Oregon National Guard's Camp Withycombe in Clackamas.

The renovation is expected to cost \$15 million, and half has been raised.

An auction Sunday included one of Kiss member Paul Stanley's guitars, fetching \$20,000.

The paper reported the band did a 14-song set, closing with an unplugged version of "Rock and Roll All Nite." □



In this Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014 photo, actress Kerry Washington poses for a portrait in Los Angeles. Washington was asked to do the domestic abuse public service announcement by The Allstate Foundation, which had already put into motion an initiative called "Purple Purse," to raise awareness of domestic-abuse money matters.

Associated Press

Kerry Washington talks domestic abuse, motherhood

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It didn't take the Ray Rice elevator video to get Kerry Washington talking about domestic violence.

In fact, it was the day before news outlets were looping security camera images of the NFL running back punching out his then-fiancee Janay Palmer that the "Scandal" actress was filming a public service announcement about a rarely discussed component of domestic violence known as financial abuse.

"For many, many of those cases — 98 percent of those cases — the financial abuse is what keeps a woman trapped," Washington said. "Not being able to control your finances, destroying a woman's credit, jeopardizing her job."

In her PSA, Washington says "one in four women will be a victim of domestic violence. Finances are almost always a weapon of choice."

Washington rarely talks to reporters about anything outside of her work. She keeps her private life so private that many in Hollywood were surprised by

the news in June 2013 that she had married former NFL cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha, with whom Washington welcomed their first child, daughter Isabelle Amarachi, in April.

Washington said she's taken guidance in her new role as working mother from her own mom, as well as another working mother: "Scandal" creator Shonda Rhimes.

"I have really amazing role models and she-oes who have found ways to balance work and home life, and so I am just looking to them and trying to live in the amazing abundance of blessings that I have in my life right now," Washington said.

"Scandal," for which Washington has earned two Emmy nominations, returns for a fourth season Sept. 25, and Washington promised season-three cliffhangers would be quickly addressed. When last we saw her character, Capitol Hill fixer Olivia Pope, she was leaving on a jet plane for points unknown.

"I can tell you (that) you will find out where that plane is going," Washington teased at last month's Emmy Awards. "And I can tell you

there's going to be a lot of (actress Darby Stanchfield's character) Abby this season. I've heard it's been called, 'The Year of Abby.'" One of Olivia's so-called "gladiators," Abby is a victim of domestic violence.

"Darby Stanchfield and I, as actors, talk a lot about, 'What was that like when Olivia stepped in and took a tire iron to some guy's knee to save her girlfriend?'" Washington noted. "What were the stakes that would make her do something like that?"

That "Scandal" storyline has resonated with many viewers, Washington said. "Women watch that (Abby's story) and say to Darby when they see her in public, 'I'm so glad to know that you guys aren't shying away from that issue.'"

Washington was asked to do the domestic abuse PSA by The Allstate Foundation, which had already put into motion an initiative called "Purple Purse," to raise awareness of domestic abuse involving money. Washington said the facts and figures presented were such eye openers that she immediately agreed to serve as the campaign's spokeswoman. □

Cat Stevens announces brief U.S. concert tour

DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Cat Stevens is taking the "Peace Train" back on the road.

He announced Monday that he will make a six-city concert tour in North America this December, his first series of shows in the U.S. since the late 1970s conversion to Islam that put his music career on the shelf for a quarter-century. He's also releasing a blues album in October produced by Rick Rubin. Stevens is using that stage name along with Yusuf, the name he took when he converted. The performer of 1970s-era hits "Wild World," "Morning Has Broken" and "Peace Train" has slowly broken back into secular music during the past decade and has made only a handful of semi-public and television appearances in the U.S. "I've been a bit slow in coming around to the United States, but there were so many people asking me to do that, that I just felt an obligation," Stevens



In this April 10, 2014 file photo, Hall of Fame Inductee Cat Stevens performs at the 2014 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in New York.

Associated Press

said in a telephone interview from Dubai, where he lives most of the time now. The title of the "Peace Train ... Late Again" tour refers to his unhurried music career. Only six dates are scheduled so far — starting Dec. 1 in Toronto and hitting Boston, New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Stevens said he frequently gets feedback on Facebook asking him to perform more and that it makes him feel

guilty "because I'm not doing as much as they want me to do. Then again, I'm 66 years old, and I do take things in my stride." Stevens, who was inducted into the rock hall this spring in Brooklyn, said he had a lot of hesitation about getting back into the music business. "That's something I ran away from a long time ago," he said. "But that's not to say the music business is the same as making music." □



In this May 31, 2013 file photo, actress Lesley Ann Warren arrives at the 10th Annual Inspiration Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

1965 'Cinderella' star to attend Broadway version

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Cinderella onstage on Broadway next Wednesday will have another Cinderella in the audience — Lesley Ann Warren.

Warren, who starred in the 1965 television version of "Cinderella," is slated to attend the Sept. 23 production of "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella" and join the cast during the curtain call to sing "Ten Minutes Ago."

"I'm really looking forward to it," Warren said by phone Monday from Los Angeles. The actress hasn't seen the show live but caught one song during the Tony Award telecast and called it "scrumptious."

Warren's turn as Cinderella, which came eight years after Julie Andrews played the part in a TV movie, also starred Walter Pidgeon, Stuart Damon, Ginger Rogers and Celeste Holm. Next year is the 50th anniversary of that production and a special DVD of it was released last year.

Warren joked that the idea of 50 years having past "makes me sick. It is crazy because it truly doesn't feel that way to me. I can't even wrap my head around it."

Warren, 68, was nominated for an Academy Award in Blake Edwards' gender-bending "Victor Victoria" and had recurring roles on TV's "Desperate Housewives" and "In Plain Sight."

When she recently started working on "Ten Minutes Ago" again, she felt very emotional. "It brought me back to that 18-year-old girl that I was creating that role," she said. "It was such a momentous experience for me." Warren had been on Broadway as a 17-year-old in "110 in the Shade" in 1963 when she auditioned for "Cinderella" during the run. □

Bill Cosby to loan art collection to U.S. museum

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After amassing a private collection of African-American Art over four decades, Bill Cosby and his wife Camille plan to showcase their holdings for the first time in an exhibition planned at the Smithsonian Institution. Cosby, 77, is a comedian, actor and author best known for the smash hit TV show he crafted, "The Cosby Show," which aired on NBC television from 1984 to 1992. The groundbreaking show featured a successful black family. He later starred in a CBS sitcom and is now in talks with NBC for a new extended-family sitcom with Cosby as the patriarch. The new project could air in 2015.



This undated handout image provided by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art and part of the William H. and Camille O. Cosby Collection, shows an oil on canvas work by Henry Ossawa Tanner, entitled *The Thankful Poor*. The

Associated Press

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art announced Monday that the entire Cosby collection will

go on view in November in a unique exhibit juxtaposing African-American art with African art.

The collection, which will be loaned to the museum, includes works by such leading African-American artists as Beauford Delaney, Faith Ringgold, Jacob Lawrence, Augusta Savage and Henry Ossawa Tanner. The Cosby collection of more than 300 African-American paintings, prints, sculptures and drawings has never been loaned or seen publicly, except for one work of art. "It's so important to show art by African-American artists in this exhibition," Cosby said in a written statement. "To me, it's a way for people to see what exists and to give voice to many of these artists who were silenced for so long, some of whom will speak no more." □

NFL Stands By Its Leader



JOE NOCERA
© 2014 New York Times

In 2006, the year that Roger Goodell was named commissioner of the NFL, the Washington Redskins were the most valuable team in football, according to Forbes magazine, with a valuation of \$1.4 billion. Washington's revenue that year was \$303 million, with profits of more than \$108 million. In second place came the New England Patriots, valued by Forbes at \$1.18 billion, followed by the Dallas Cowboys at \$1.17 billion.

Fast forward to Forbes' most recent financial analysis of NFL teams, published earlier this month. Today, the Cowboys, the No. 1 team, are valued at \$3.2 billion, almost triple their valuation of just eight years ago, with revenue of \$560 million and profits of \$246 million. The Patriots, meanwhile, saw their valuation jump to \$2.6 billion. The Washington team, though now in third place, is still worth \$1 billion more than it was in 2006.

And these numbers are, if anything, an understatement: The Buffalo Bills were just sold for \$1.4 billion, a record price for a professional football team. Forbes had estimated the Bills' value at "only" \$935 million.

If you want to understand why Goodell's job is almost certainly safe, despite his complete botch of the Ray Rice domestic violence case and the many calls for his ouster, this is why: The only people who can fire him are the 32 NFL owners - and they have zero interest in letting him go. After all, he makes them money. Currently, the NFL takes in about \$10 billion overall; Goodell has told the owners he wants to make it a \$25 billion business by the year 2027. You can practically see their mouths watering at the prospect.

Just listen to them circling the wagons: John Mara, the co-owner of the New York Giants, has said flatly that Goodell's job is not in jeopardy. Robert Kraft, the owner of the Patriots, has come to his defense. In 2012, the owners paid Goodell a staggering \$44.2 million.

"I think he's worth it," Kraft told The New York Times' Ken Belson in February, when Goodell's pay was revealed.

Of course there is another reason the owners think he is "worth it."

He takes the heat for them when they need him to. Daniel Snyder, the owner in Washington, is adamant that he will never give up the nickname "Redskins," even though it is deeply insulting to Native Americans. Goodell backs him up. The owners don't want to pay pensions to their referees? Goodell locks them out.

"It's a mistake to view Goodell as powerful," says Gregg Easterbrook, the author of "The King of Sports: Why Football Must Be Reformed." "The owners have all the power."

And so it is in the recent controversy. Football is a violent game, and although they'd never say so out loud, NFL owners accept some violence outside the white lines as an inevitable consequence. Indeed, it happens frequently enough that USA Today compiles a database of NFL players who have been arrested. The website Sidespin, using that database, found 56 examples of domestic violence committed by pro football players in the years since Goodell became commissioner.

Once, in 2011, a player was suspended for the rest of the season - but that was by his team, the Minnesota Vikings, not Goodell. Another time, in 2006, a player was suspended by the league for two games.

In every other instance where NFL headquarters mandated a punishment, it was only a one-game suspension. According to Sidespin, in nearly three dozen cases of domestic violence, the NFL took no action at all.

No wonder Goodell thought that his original two-game suspension of Rice, the Baltimore Ravens running back, for knocking his then-fiancée out cold was enough: He had never given out a longer suspension for domestic violence during his time as commissioner. Then came the leak of the video of Rice's punch - followed by the scene of him dragging his unconscious fiancée out of the elevator door - which was so horrifying that even the NFL couldn't look the other way.

Goodell suspended Rice indefinitely and gave an interview to CBS News in which he tried to accept the blame for his mistake but came across as evasive and defensive.

And he ordered up an internal investigation to be headed by Robert Mueller, the former FBI director.

There is a small chance, I suppose, that Mueller will discover that Goodell lied when he said he had not seen the video before it became public earlier this week. In that case, the owners would have no choice but to fire him. But I don't think that's going to happen. What is far more likely is that Goodell will survive the calls for his ouster and go back to doing the one thing he truly knows how to do: Make money for his overlords, pro football's owners. □



Obama's Strategy for IS Isn't All About Us



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2014 New York Times

There are three things in life that you should never do ambivalently: get married, buy a house or go to war. Alas, we're about to do No. 3. Should we? President Barack Obama clearly took this decision to lead the coalition to degrade and destroy the Islamic State with deep ambivalence. How could he not? Our staying power is ambiguous, our enemy is barbarous, our regional allies are duplicitous, our European allies are feckless and the Iraqis and Syrians we're trying to help are fractious. There is not a straight shooter in the bunch. Other than that, it's just like D-Day.

Consider Saudi Arabia. It's going to help train Free Syrian Army soldiers, but, at the same time, is one of the biggest sources of volunteer jihadists in Syria. And, according to a secret 2009 U.S. study signed by then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and divulged by WikiLeaks, private "donors in Saudi Arabia constitute the most significant source of funding to Sunni terrorist groups worldwide." Turkey allowed foreign jihadists to pass into and out of Syria and has been an important market for oil that the Islamic State is smuggling out of Iraq for cash. Iran built the EFPs - explosively formed penetrators - that Iraqi Shiite militias used to help drive America out of Iraq and encouraged Iraq's Shiite leaders to strip Iraqi Sunnis of as much power and money as possible, which helped create the Islamic State's Sunni counter-revolt. Syria's president, Bashar Assad, delib-

erately allowed the Islamic State to emerge so he could show the world that he was not the only mass murderer in Syria. And Qatar is with us Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and against us Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fortunately, it takes the weekends off. Meanwhile, back home, Obama knows that the members of his own party and the Republican Party who are urging him to bomb the Islamic State will be the first to run for the hills if we get stuck, fail or accidentally bomb a kindergarten class.

So why did the president decide to go ahead? It's a combination of a legitimate geostrategic concern - if Islamic State jihadists consolidate their power in the heart of Iraq and Syria, it could threaten some real islands of decency, like Kurdistan, Jordan and Lebanon, and might one day generate enough capacity to harm the West more directly - and the polls. Obama clearly feels drummed into this by the sudden shift in public opinion after the Islamic State's ghastly videotaped beheadings of two American journalists.

OK, but given this cast of characters, is there any way this Obama plan can end well? Only if we are extremely disciplined and tough-minded about how, when and for whom we use our power.

Before we step up the bombing campaign on the Islamic State, it needs to be absolutely clear on whose behalf we are fighting. The Islamic State did not emerge by accident and from nowhere. It is the hate-child of two civil wars in which the Sunni Muslims have been crushed. One is the vicious civil war in Syria in which the Iranian-backed Alawite-Shiite regime has killed roughly 200,000 people, many of them Sunni Muslims, with chemical weapons and barrel bombs. And the other is the Iraqi civil war in which the Iranian-backed Shiite government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki systematically stripped the Sunnis of Iraq of their power and resources. There will be no self-sustained

stability unless those civil wars are ended and a foundation is laid for decent governance and citizenship. Only Arabs and Muslims can do that by ending their sectarian wars and tribal feuds. We keep telling ourselves that the problem is "training," when the real problem is governance. We spent billions of dollars training Iraqi soldiers who ran away from the Islamic State's path - not because they didn't have proper training, but because they knew that their officers were corrupt hacks who were not appointed on merit and that the filthy al-Maliki government was unworthy of fighting for. We so underestimate how starved Arabs are, in all these awakenings, for clean, decent governance.

Never forget, this is a two-front war: the Islamic State is the external enemy, and sectarianism and corruption in Iraq and Syria are the internal enemies. We can and should help degrade the first, but only if Iraqis and Syrians, Sunnis and Shiites, truly curtail the second. If our stepped-up bombing, in Iraq and Syria, gets ahead of their reconciliation, we will become the story and the target. And that is exactly what the Islamic State is waiting for.

The Islamic State loses if our moderate Arab-Muslim partners can unite and make this a civil war within Islam - a civil war in which America is the air force for the Sunnis and Shiites of decency versus those of barbarism. The Islamic State wins if it can make this America's war with Sunni Islam - a war where America is the Shiite/Alawite air force against Sunnis in Iraq and Syria. The Islamic State will use every bit of its Twitter/Facebook network to try to depict it as the latter, and draw more recruits. We keep making this story about us, about Obama, about what we do. But it is not about us. It is about them and who they want to be. It's about a pluralistic region that lacks pluralism and needs to learn how to coexist. It's the 21st century. It's about time. □



Models wear an outfits by designer Burberry Prorsum during their Spring/Summer 15 show at London Fashion Week in London, Monday, Sept. 15, 2014. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

Rainbow Hues, Jean Jackets At Burberry's Show

SYLVIA HUI
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — As if to perk up audiences ahead of a dreary grey winter, Burberry Prorsum on Monday showed off a spring collection bursting with bright rainbow colors and cheerful prints of beetles, bees and dragonflies. The luxury British clothing label's show at London Fashion Week, always a highlight that packs in the crowds and celebrities, also confirmed that the humble sneaker and the flat sandal — the sporty, thick-strapped kind — are definitely the footwear of

the moment come spring. The casual shoes were worn with romantic tutu-like tulle dresses in jewel shades such as emerald and amethyst, finished with a pretty silk ribbon belt tied in a bow. Also notably back on trend is the jean jacket, though here it's far from humdrum. A cinched-in one in a dark wash, shaped like a bustier to accentuate the waist, opened the show. Later they came trimmed with luxury details like sheepskin and shiny, colorful leather collars. No Burberry show is complete without some varia-

tion of the brand's famous trench coat, and this season's show finale spotlighted 35 of them, all in vibrant prints and loud shades covering the whole color wheel — from pinks and reds to greens, blues and purples. These are not jackets for the wallflower; they are meant to be worn as statement pieces to wow and dazzle. Off the catwalk — itself painted with those same colors — an upbeat party spirit also prevailed. Supermodels Kate Moss and Cara Delevingne, who both star in Burberry's latest promotion campaigns, took a break from the run-

way and sat front row, giggling and taking selfies with fellow guest and celebrity photographer Mario Testino. "I thought it was absolutely beautiful," said actress Naomie Harris. "I love the use of color. It's so vibrant and playful. It was amazing." Backstage, designer Christopher Bailey said he wanted to play with the idea of "strength and fragility" by using hardy fabrics such as denim and contrasting them with sheer tulle. In recent years Burberry has sought to stand out in the crowded luxury market with technology and

custom services. That includes live-streaming shows and allowing customers to order items online straight off the runway, with their initials added — months before the products arrive in stores. That service comes with a price, of course: A printed trench coat from this season is 2,500 pounds (\$4,058). Bailey said that will continue to be his strategy. "I think no matter how big you become, that personalized product and service is what makes you stand out and what gives you authenticity as a luxury brand," he told The Associated Press. □